

Groton Daily Independent

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Wednesday, May 24

United Methodist: Wednesday Coffee, 9 a.m.; UMYF end of year party at parsonage, 5:30 p.m.

Senior Menu: Baked chicken breast, mashed potatoes with gravy, California blend vegetables, lemon tart bar, whole wheat bread.

Thursday, May 25

Groton School: Region girls golf at Sioux Valley, 9 a.m.

Senior Menu: Stir fry beef with rice, oriental blend vegetables, honey fruit salad, whole wheat bread.

Friday, May 26

Groton School: State Track at Tea

Senior Menu: Oven fried chicken, potato salad, carrots and broccoli medley, muffin, fresh fruit.

Saturday, May 27

Groton School: State Track at Sioux Falls

Sunday, May 28

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship at 9 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Worship at 9 a.m.

United Methodist Church: Conde worship, 9 a.m.; coffee fellowship time, 10 a.m., Groton worship, 11 a.m.

Catholic Parish: Mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church at 9 a.m., then at St. Joseph

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper
recycling trailer at the school is **Open**



MCKIVER COLLISION
Lifetime Warranty on all Collision Work!
13556 400th Ave., Groton SD 57445
Allen McKiver, Owner ~ 605/397-4404

Brett Lynn Benda



Parent: Jessica Benda

Hometown: Groton

Sister: Hailey Pray 9

Hobbies: pencil drawing, creating music, and being with friends

Future plans: I would like to become a tattoo artist to create Art that will last forever

Congratulations Brett! Best wishes in the future!



Cheri's on Main

Men & Women Haircuts ~ Perms ~ Color

7 N Main, Groton ~ **605/397-2491**

Tate Michael Carda



Parents: Troy and Rhonda Carda

Hometown: Groton

Brothers: Tobias "Troy" Carda 22, and Tucker Carda 14

Hobbies: I play Super Smash Brothers on 3DS and Wii U , I write stories online and I play piano

School/community activities: prom, high school choir, FBLA, and working at Ken's

Favorite high school memory: prom 2017- it was the best time!

Future plans: I'm going to participate in Project Search and then get a job

Congrats and Good Luck from

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Braiden Douglas Craig



Parents: Lon and Carmen Craig

Hometown: Groton

Brother: Jace Craig

Hobbies: hunting, fishing, working on the farm and working on my pick ups

School/community activities: FFA, farm safety

Favorite high school memory: every day in shop class

Future plans: attend Lake Area for Diesel Technology and further my Mechanic skills , and one day return to the family farm.

Congrats from Doug Abeln Seed

Doug Abeln Seed Co.



Seed Dealer

Call Doug at 605/380-0200

Halley Frances Cranford



Parents: Heather Jacobs and Dennis Cranford
Hometown: LA, California
Brothers: Thomas Cranford 15, and James Cranford 17
Hobbies: drawing, working out, working
School/community activities: Gymnastics
Favorite high school memory: junior year prom
Future plans: attend NSU for Nursing this August

Good Luck From



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Douglas Scott Dobbins



Parent: Trixy Schwabe

Hometown: Aberdeen

Brother and sister: Dominique 21, and Danielle 20

Hobbies: being outside, working, playing video games, going to races and demo derbies

School/community activities: Groton area, football, and basketball manager

Favorite high school memory: first ever time going to the Dome for me and it being my last year in high school. Beating Roncalli twice in football. Playing in the Dome

Future plans: going to Lake Area for Automotive Technology and possibly Welding. I am also looking into the Army as well

Great job, Douglas & Good Luck!

GDI

- LIVE
- NEWS
- CLEAN
- FIT

**21 N Main, Downtown Groton
605/397-NEWS (6397)**

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Nicole Marie Fey



Parents: Roxanne and Michael Fey

Hometown: Groton

Hobbies: fishing, Kayaking, and traveling

School/community activities: volleyball and Throwing in track

Favorite high school memory: going to track practice

Future plans: I plan to go to Lake Area for Welding

Congratulations, Nicole, from all the girls at Lori's Pharmacy!



Lori's Pharmacy

Lori Giedt, RPh



1205 N 1st St., Groton • 397-2363

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Kellyn Kay Fluke



Parents: William Fluke and Tammy and Jim Weiszhaar

Hometown: Bath

Brothers and sister: Chris Weiszhaar 34, Travis Weiszhaar 31, and Caitlyn Fluke 31

Hobbies: watching Netflix, hanging out with friends and family, and vending

School/community activities: cheerleading, FCCLA, FBLA and dance team

Favorite high school memory: making it to the Dome for football our senior year

Future plans: attend SDSU for English Education

Awards: Groton CTE Curriculum Scholar, SDSU Jackrabbit Guarantee, Groton FCCLA Service Award, SD Opportunity Scholarship, Groton Area School Employee Teaching Scholarship.

Congrats Kellyn!!!!!!

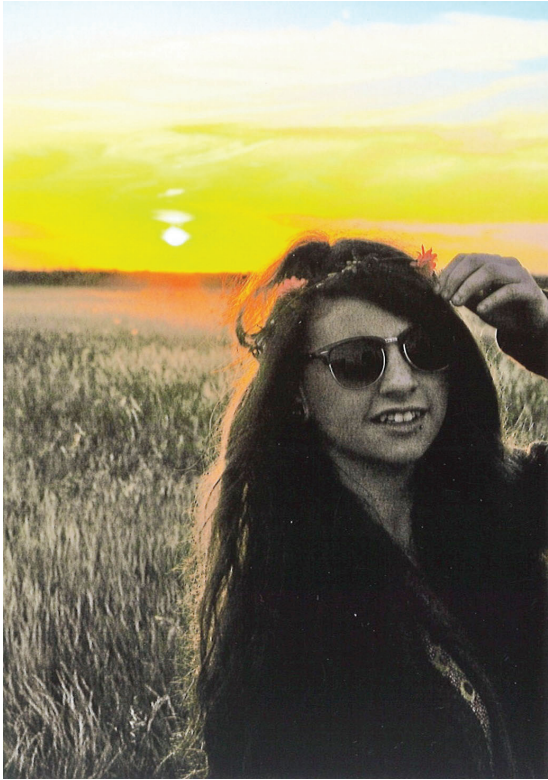


Setting Higher Standards

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Kayla Fordham



Parents: Scott and Mary Fordham

Hometown: Groton

Sister: Amanda Fordham-23

Hobbies: camping, art, and writing, making and experiencing new things

Favorite high school memory: spending time in my friends shop with my crew

Future plans: make art and travel living life to the fullest helping people along the way.

Congrats Kayla!

Fritz's Furniture & Antiques

500 3rd St., Britol SD • 605/492-3199

M-F: 10 am - 6 pm Sat. 9 am - 4 pm

Owners: Mike, Tina and Justin Fordham

Dillon Scott Freeman



Parents: Scott and Shelley Freeman

Hometown: Groton

Sisters and brother: Kristine Hinman 32, Kaylene Hinman 29, Braden Freeman 14

Hobbies: riding motorcycle, working on computers, playing video games, and spending time with friends and family.

School/community activities: band, marching band, large group contest, soloist competitions, and pops concert performance.

Favorite high school memory: spending time with classmates forming memories and friendships that will last forever.

Future plans: going to Mitchell Tech for information Systems Technology Proceeding graduation from MTI I will be moving to Rapid City to pursue my career

Award: SD Build Dakota Scholarship – Full tuition, fees, books and computer scholarship for two years

Congratulation, Dillon, on your great scholarship award and good luck!

GDI

- LIVE
- NEWS
- CLEAN
- FIT

**21 N Main, Downtown Groton
605/397-NEWS (6397)**

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Joseph Thomas Groeblichhoff



Parents: Matt and Joni Groeblichhoff

Hometown: Groton

Brothers and sister: Ryan 11, Nicholas 9, Katie 20

Hobbies: I like to fish, hunt, and work on about anything with a motor. Care of my chickens

School/community activities: I played football, I also played baseball

Favorite high school memory: going to the Dakota Dome for State football my senior year.

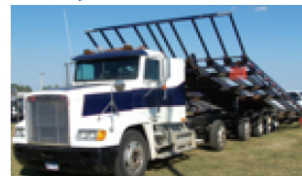
Future plans: Either go to Lake Area in Watertown for Automotive Technology or just go to work.

We wish you the best of luck, Joseph!

Milbrandt Enterprises, Inc.

39870 139th St, Groton

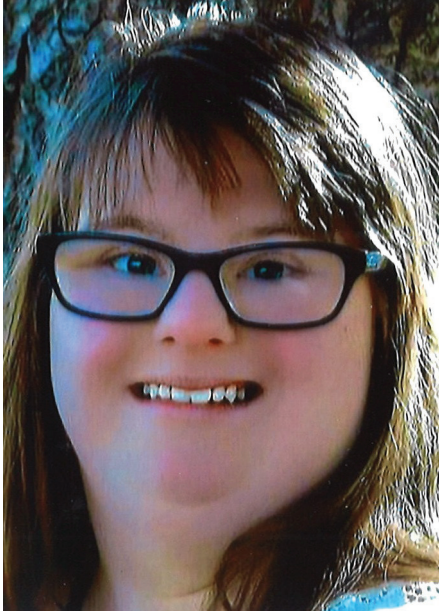
(605) 395-6581 ~ ggm@nvc.net



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Shelby Kay Hjermstad



Parents: Randy Hjermstad and Sandy Hoops

Hometown: Groton

Brothers and sister: Shannon 20, Aaron 37, Adam 36, Drew 33, and Lee 31

Hobbies: sing, be with friends and family, spend time outside, and reading

School/community activities: student manager for girls basketball, FCCLA, work at Golden living center, St. John's youth group

Favorite high school memory: Prom 2017

Future plans: get a job

We're proud of you, Shelby!

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Chrysler Center

901 Auto Plaza Drive
Aberdeen, SD

800.874.9173

www.aberdeenchrysler.com

Sandy's Bar & Grill
Conde

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Colt Ryder Hokana



Parents: Curt and Merri Hokana

Hometown: Columbia

Hobbies: rodeo, riding bareback Horses anything that's fun

School/community activities: high school Rodeo and Groton FFA

Future plans: Gillette College for Welding Degree, Rodeo on college Rodeo team and Rodeo cowboy for a living

Congrats and Good Luck from

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Katlyn Hale Idt



Parents: Brain and Rebecca Idt

Hometown: Andover

Brother: Aaron-12

Hobbies: reading, playing with my dogs

Favorite high school memory: making it to the Dome

Future plans: I am going to Northern State University for Psychology

Award: Northern State WolfPACT Scholarship

Congratulations Katlyn!



1202 N 1st St, Suite D

397-7827 (SUBS)

Peyton Keith Jondahl



Parents: Kevin and Sharolyn Johndahl

Hometown: Groton

Sister: Sashia- 32

Hobbies: hunting, fishing, and riding motorcycle

Future plans: going to Mitchell Tech for the Power sports program

Congratulations! Best wishes. from Mark and Kelly



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Alexander Henry Kern



Parents: Mother-Sandra Marpu, father Zachary Kern, and Step dad Stacy Mayou

Hometown: Groton

Brothers and sisters: Amanda Kern 29, Aaron Kern 27, Emily Kern 24, Tonya Mayou and Hayley Mayou 22

Hobbies: part time job

School/community activities: Luther league, show choir, chamber choir, all state choir, choir, band, marching band, pep band, football, all school play

Favorite high school memory: the homecoming of my freshman year

Future plans: attend a four- year college and get a bachelors degree

Awards: Northern State WolfPACT Scholarship, Emmanuel Lutheran Faith Forever Scholarship, YBA Scholarship

Congratulation Alex and Good Luck in your future!

Ken's SUPER FAIR FOODS
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Groton ~ 397-8456 ~ kenssuperfair.com

Katelyn Rose Koehler



Parents: Rick and Sherry Koehler

Hometown: Groton

Brother and sisters: Ryan-26, Ashleigh 25, Nikki 20

Hobbies: hang with friends and family going fishing and hunting; having movie nights

School/community activities: volleyball, soccer, basketball, track, youth group, FCCLA

Favorite high school memory: when Shelby Hjermsstad came into basketball game against Redfield and made a basket. Also beating Roncalli to go to the Dome.

Future plans: attend Northern State University and major in Elementary Education and double major in Special Ed

Awards: Groton FCCLA Service Award, Groton Area School Employee Teaching Scholarship.

Congratulations from

**JAMES
VALLEY**
TELECOMMUNICATIONS



jamesvalley.com

Gabrielle Rebecca Kramer



Parents: Dale and Traci Kramer and Michele Kramer

Brother and sisters: Ava-12, Sklyer 8, Emma 8

Hobbies: drawing, singing, dancing, taking things apart, and video games

School/community activities: show choir, chamber choir, all-state choir, honor choir, school play, one-act play, and cross country

Favorite High school memory: traveling with show choir

Future plans: go to South Dakota School of Mines and Technology and major in Mechanical Engineering

Awards: SD Opportunity Scholarship, SDSM&T Freshman Scholarship

Good Luck From



605-397-2228

www.jarkrealestate.com

Hai Ku



Parents: Eh Lah and Ah de

Parents: (Thailand) Groton

Sister: Paw Shee 22

Hobbies: shopping, spend time with friends

School/community activities: Karen community event, photographer for school yearbook

Favorite High school memory: The day Mrs. Sternhagen called me down to let me know that I received a scholarship

Future plans: to attend Northern State University to study Business

Awards: Principal's Student Service Award 2017, Roger Hendrickson Memorial Scholarship, Groton Lions Club Scholarship, Orval and Bernice Smith Memorial Scholarship, Groton Edna Bugner Memorial Scholarship

Congratulations Hai Ku from all your friends at Groton Care and Rehabilitation Center.



GROTON
CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER

Wyatt Ryan Kurtz



Parents: Tom and Cheri Strom, Randy Kurtz

Hometown: Conde

Brothers and sisters: Clayton-16, Alicia 29, Greg 31, and Garrett 33

Hobbies: working on my pick up, hanging out with my friends and girlfriend

School/community activities: soccer and wrestling

Favorite high school memory: winning state soccer in 2014

Future plans: attend Lake Area tech for Diesel technician

Best wishes in your next adventure, Wyatt!! Love you!



Cheri's on Main

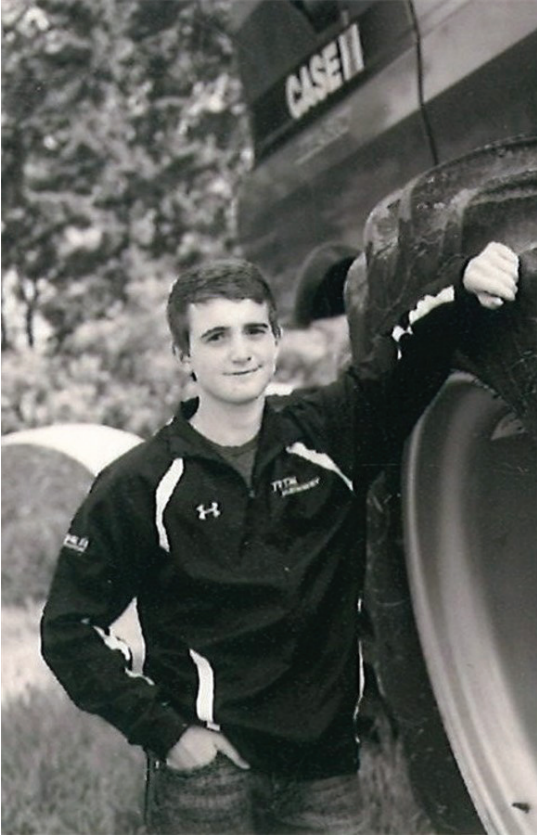
Men & Women Haircuts ~ Perms ~ Color

7 N Main, Groton ~ 605/397-2491

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Mark Wesley Leonhardt



Parents: Terry and Cindy Leonhardt

Hometown: Groton

Sisters: Taylor and Cheyenne 22 and Tyra 21

Hobbies: hunting, fishing, and trapping

School/community activities: high school rodeo, and 4H

Favorite high school memory: watching the football team beat Roncalli twice.

Future plans: attend Lake Area Tech for Ag business then coming back to Groton to farm along side my dad

Congratulations from Cheri's on Main and best wishes in the next step. !!!



Cheri's on Main

Men & Women Haircuts ~ Perms ~ Color

7 N Main, Groton ~ 605/397-2491

Emily Pearl Locke



Parents: Darren and Lisa Locke

Hometown: Groton

Brothers: Dalton 22, oldest brother and Little brother Wyatt Locke 16

Hobbies: I like being at the lake with friends. Hanging out with friends and being with my family

School/community activities: I play soccer and basketball. I coach little kids soccer. I am a member of FCCLA for about four years.

Favorite high school memory: junior year at prom we were dancing and sent me flying forward onto a prop

Future plans: I plan to attend Southeast Team in the fall and continue my Education. I plan to major in Vascular Technician.

Award: Groton Sammuli-Rix Scholarship

Congratulations! Best wishes. Mark and Kelly



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Heather Marie Lone



Parents: Michael and Barbara Lone

Hometown: Bristol

Sister: Karie Lone 20

Hobbies: playing soccer, running, swimming, helping little kids, hanging with friends, going to the lake, and singing

School/community activities: varsity soccer, varsity track, football manager, wrestling manager, FCCLA member, high school choir, show choir (2 years), Bethesda Lutheran Church Luther League member.

Favorite high school memory: my 4x100m relay team placing at the State track meet my sophomore year.

Future plans: I plan to attend Northern State University in the fall to major in Elementary Education, in hopes to become a Kindergarten or Preschool Teacher

Awards: Anthony O'Brokaw Memorial Scholarship, Jerald W. Peterson Memorial Scholarship, Groton FCCLA Service Award, Groton Area School Employee Teaching Scholarship

Congrats from Doug Abeln Seed

Doug Abeln Seed Co.



Seed Dealer

Call Doug at 605/380-0200

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McClain Garry Lone



Parents: Merry and Garry Lone

Hometown: Bristol

Sisters: Olivis 21, and Angela 31

Hobbies: snowmobling, weight lifting, w Boarding, spending time with friends and family

School/community activities: football, track, member of United Methodist church in Bristol

Favorite high school memory: playing in the football state championship

Future plans: attending Mitchell Tech for Powerline Maintenance and repair

Awards: Jerald W. Peterson Memorial Scholarship, Richard Duerre Memorial Scholarship

Congrats from Doug Abeln Seed

Doug Abeln Seed Co.



Seed Dealer

Call Doug at 605/380-0200

Ambercorbie McKay



Parents: Catalina Sawatzky

Hometown: Aberdeen

Brother and sisters: Micheal Sawatzky 33, Michelle Sawatzky 32, and Carly Rae Everenden 30

School/community activities: FFA

Favorite High school memory: Paityn Bonn, Sade Hedges and I taught the fourth graders in the area about Dairy foods and a kid asked if we could milk a chicken

Future plans: attending Lake Area Technical Institute to pursue a career in Occupational therapy Assisting

Congrats and Good Luck from

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Nicklos Lee Menzia



Parents: Ann and Eric Menzia

Hometown: Conde

Sisters: Sanjay Ramon 22, Sam Menzia 16, Sara Menzia 11

Hobbies: hunting, fishing, playing guitar

School/community activities: football, trapshooting

Favorite high school memory: hanging out with friends

Future plans: will be attending Lake Area Tech for Ag. Aviation

Award: Barry Schuring Memorial Scholarship

Congratulations Nick!



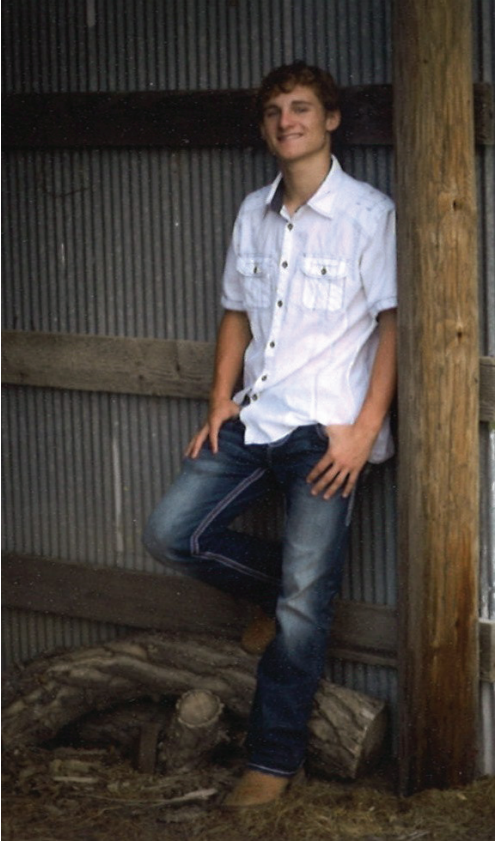
1202 N 1st St, Suite D

397-7827 (SUBS)

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Trevor Matthew Pray



Parents: Chad and Chanise Pray

Hometown: Groton

Brothers and sisters: Paige 20, Cory 23, Chelsea 25, Danielle 29

Hobbies: hunting, fishing, snow mobbing, hanging out with friends

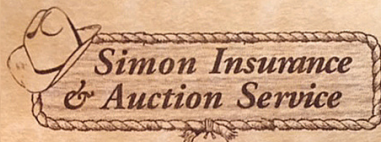
School/community activities: football, track, wrestling soccer

Favorite high school memory: beating Roncalli in play offs and going to the Dome

Future Plans: attend Lake Area Technical Institute and major in Diesel Mechanic. After I plan to come home and help my dad on the farm

Award: Brian Sundstrom Wrestling Memorial Scholarship

Congratulations Trevor!



Steve Simon

Auctioneer / Crop & Hail Insurance Specialist

605/397-8507 Cell: 605/380-8506

ssimonins@nvc.net

www.stevesimongroton.com

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Tyler Garth Richards



Parents: Scott and Christine Richards

Hometown: Aberdeen

Brother and sisters: Matthew 20, Cody 17, Sheyanne 14, Ava 9, and Isabella 5

Hobbies: Rodeo and hunting/fishing. A lot of things with horses

School/community activities: I've given a lot of blood and I've picked up trash and many things within Aberdeen

Favorite high school memory: coming to Groton. I've been to a lot of high schools while growing up. By far though, Groton has been the best

Future plans: I've already enlisted in the Army, and plan on living the military just like my father and his. After though, I plan on starting my life and try to live it to the fullest

Best of Luck from LW Sales

LW Sales, Inc.

300 Railroad Ave, Groton

605-397-8111

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Truitt Latham Rogers



Parents: Dirk and Jennifer Rogers

Hometown: Groton

Sisters: Sadie 21, Indigo 15

Hobbies: hanging out with friends video games and sports

School/community activities: soccer, baseball, and choir

Favorite high school memory: winning state soccer

Future plans: attend lake Area Tech in Business Marketing and Management

Congratulation & Good Luck, Truitt!

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Reed Andrew Sattler



Parents: Jason Sattler and Twylla Sattler

Hometown: Bath

Sister and brother: Kaitlyn Sattler 22, and Schyler Sattler 21

Hobbies: working on cars, doing carpentry work

Favorite high school memory: would have to be driving around in a 1928 Model A the day before prom

Future plans: I plan on going to Lake Area tech for Custom Paint and Fabrication

Congratulations Reed! From Olde Bank Floral and the Townsends!

	<i>Fresh flowers, home decor, Dark Canyon Coffee & so much more</i>		
	101 N. Main St., Groton ~ 397-8650 www.oldebankfloralsd.com		
			Olde Bank Floral @

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Sean Brian Schuring



Parents: Brian and Andrea Schuring, and Brian and Teresa Adam

Hometown: Groton

Sisters: Morgan 25, and Alexa 23

Hobbies: hanging out with friends and competing in sports

School/community activities: basketball, track, golf, and baseball, and HS choir

Favorite high school memory: hitting a hole-in-one my senior year of golf

Future plans: attend Presentation College in Aberdeen and major in Exercise Science. Also , continue playing basketball

Awards: Rob Luecke Memorial Scholarship, Presentation College Scholarship, Groton Darlene Raap Memorial Scholarship

Congrats Sean!!!



Setting Higher Standards

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Willow Marie Seurer



Parents: Marti Seurer

Hometown: Groton

Brother: Boady Looney 17

Hobbies: hanging with friends

Favorite high school memory: hanging out in Kate's shop

Future plans: attend LATI for business

Award: Groton Lions Club Scholarship

Congratulations Willow and best wishes in the future!!



Cheri's on Main

Men & Women Haircuts ~ Perms ~ Color

7 N Main, Groton ~ 605/397-2491

Good Luck, Willow, and congratulations!

An advertisement for Hanlon Brothers Gravel Hauling. It features a yellow excavator on the left and a yellow front loader on the right, both working on a gravel site. The text is overlaid on the image.

Hanlon Brothers
Gravel Hauling
New & Cleaning of Stockdams with our 60' reach trackhoe
605/395-6531

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Bennett Jamal Shabazz



Parents: Cheri and Zelos Johnson

Hometown: Groton

Brothers: Seric Shabazz 17, and Darien Shabazz 15

Hobbies: playing sports, video games, lifting, driving around with friends

School/community activities: football, basketball, baseball, track, and choir

Favorite high school memory: beating Roncalli to go the Dome

Future plans: attend Northern to play football and go into Pre- physical

Awards: Northern State WolfPACT Scholarship, Northern State Football Scholarship, Groton Lions Club Scholarship, Groton Cortland and Lois Kuehnert Athletic Scholarship

Congrats Benny!



Setting Higher Standards

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Shane Nicholas Simon



Parents: Steve and Peggy Simon

Hometown: Groton

Brother and sister: Stephen Simon 22, Maggie Simon 19

Hobbies: hunting, fishing, bow fishing, snowmobiling, spending time at the lake

School/community activities: FFA, football, member of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

Favorite high school memory: making it to the Dome for football

Future plans: attending Lake Area for Precision Ag and working at Simon farm and Simon Insurance

Congratulations Shane!

 <p><i>Simon Insurance & Auction Service</i></p>	<p>Steve Simon Auctioneer / Crop & Hail Insurance Specialist 605/397-8507 Cell: 605/380-8506 ssimonins@nvc.net</p>
<p>www.stevesimongroton.com</p>	

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Today in Weather History

May 24, 1960: A tornado touched down about 7 miles northwest of Roscoe and destroyed a small shed near a country schoolhouse. Funnel clouds were also observed in Hosmer area, near Eureka, and 30 miles west of Aberdeen. An unofficial report of 4 inches of rain fell at Hosmer.

May 24, 2008: A supercell thunderstorm produced seven tornadoes in Dewey County. Since these tornadoes remained in the open country, all were rated EF0.

1894 - Six inches of snow blanketed Kentucky. Just four days earlier as much as ten inches of snow had fallen across Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia. Six days earlier a violent storm had wrecked nine ships on Lake Michigan. (David Ludlum)

1896: An estimated F4 tornado passed ten miles north of Des Moines, Iowa during the late evening. As many as seven members of one family, the at the north edge of Valeria, Iowa, died as they ran to the storm cellar. Five others died in a nearby home. A steel railroad rail was reportedly driven 15 feet into the ground. The death toll was at least 21.

1930 - A tornado touched down near the town of Pratt, KS, and traveled at the incredibly slow speed of just 5 mph. (The Weather Channel)

1940 - Hail fell near Ada OK to a depth of six to eight inches, and rainfall runoff left drifts of hail up to five feet high. (The Weather Channel)

1973: An F4 tornado tore through the small town of Union City, Oklahoma, killing two and injuring four others. This tornado was the first storm to be studied in detail by the National Severe Storms Laboratory Doppler Radar Unit at Norman, OK and an armada of researchers in the field. Research of the radar data from the storm would lead to the discovery of a "TVS," or Tornado Vortex Signature. The presence of a TVS on Doppler radar data is a very strong indication of tornadic potential in a severe thunderstorm.

1987 - Severe thunderstorms in southwest Texas spawned a couple of tornadoes near Silverton, and produced golf ball size hail east of the town of Happy. Thunderstorms also produced large hail and damaging winds in Louisiana and Texas. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the southeastern U.S. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 88 mph at Columbia, NC. Baseball size hail was reported near Tifton GA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1989 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front produced severe weather across the Upper Midwest through the day and night. Thunderstorms spawned 30 tornadoes, and there were 158 reports of large hail and damaging winds. A strong (F-3) tornado caused five million dollars damage at Corning, IA, and a powerful (F-4) tornado caused five million dollars damage at Traer, IA. Thunderstorm winds gusting to 88 mph killed one person and injured five others at Stephenville, WI. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Severe thunderstorms spawned two dozen tornadoes from Montana to Oklahoma. Four tornadoes carved a 109-mile path across central Kansas. The third of the four tornadoes blew 88 cars off an 125-car train off the track, stacking them three to four cars high in some cases, and the fourth tornado caused 3.9 million dollars damage. The third tornado injured six persons who were trying to escape in vehicles. A woman was "sucked out" of a truck and said that at one time she was "airborne, trying to run but my feet wouldn't touch the ground". She also saw a live deer "flying through the air". (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2002: The last measurable snow of the season fell in Marquette, Michigan. This snowfall brought the city's seasonal snowfall to 319.8 inches, by far the city's snowiest winter ever.

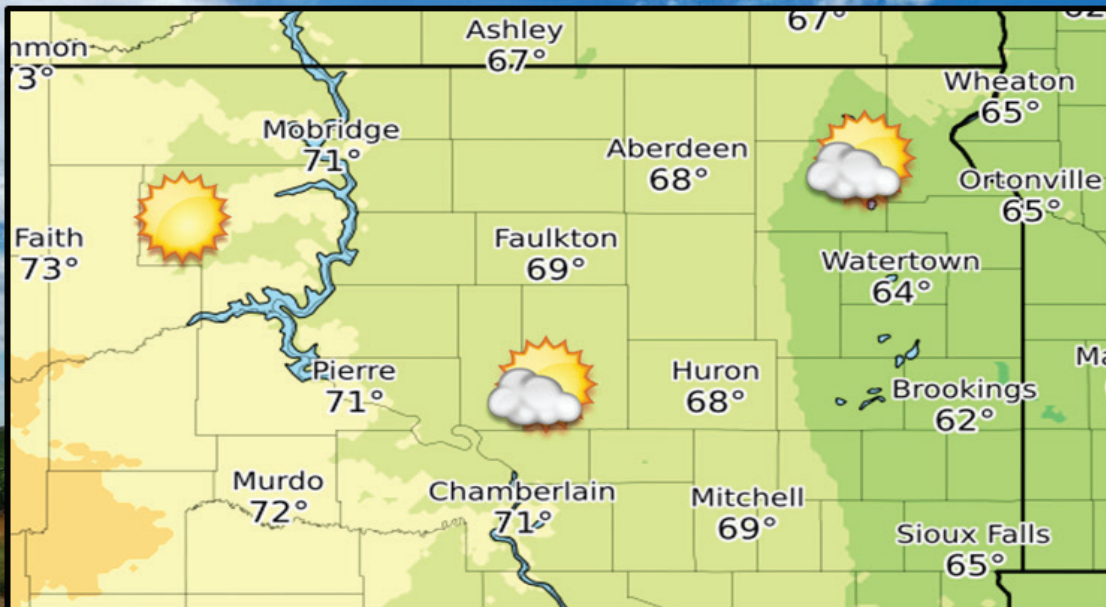
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Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
						
Patched Frost then Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny then Chance Showers
High: 68 °F	Low: 49 °F	High: 75 °F	Low: 46 °F	High: 74 °F	Low: 46 °F	High: 72 °F



Warmer Temps Moving in Today!



Winds Turning Southerly Today, Breezy in Central SD



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 5/24/2017 5:47 AM Central

Published on: 05/24/2017 at 5:50AM

After a chilly start to the morning under high pressure and light winds, the afternoon will turn warmer with increasing southerly winds. Highs will rebound into the 60s and low 70s with partly cloudy to mostly sunny skies. Dry conditions are expected today, but shower chances arrive across central South Dakota this evening.

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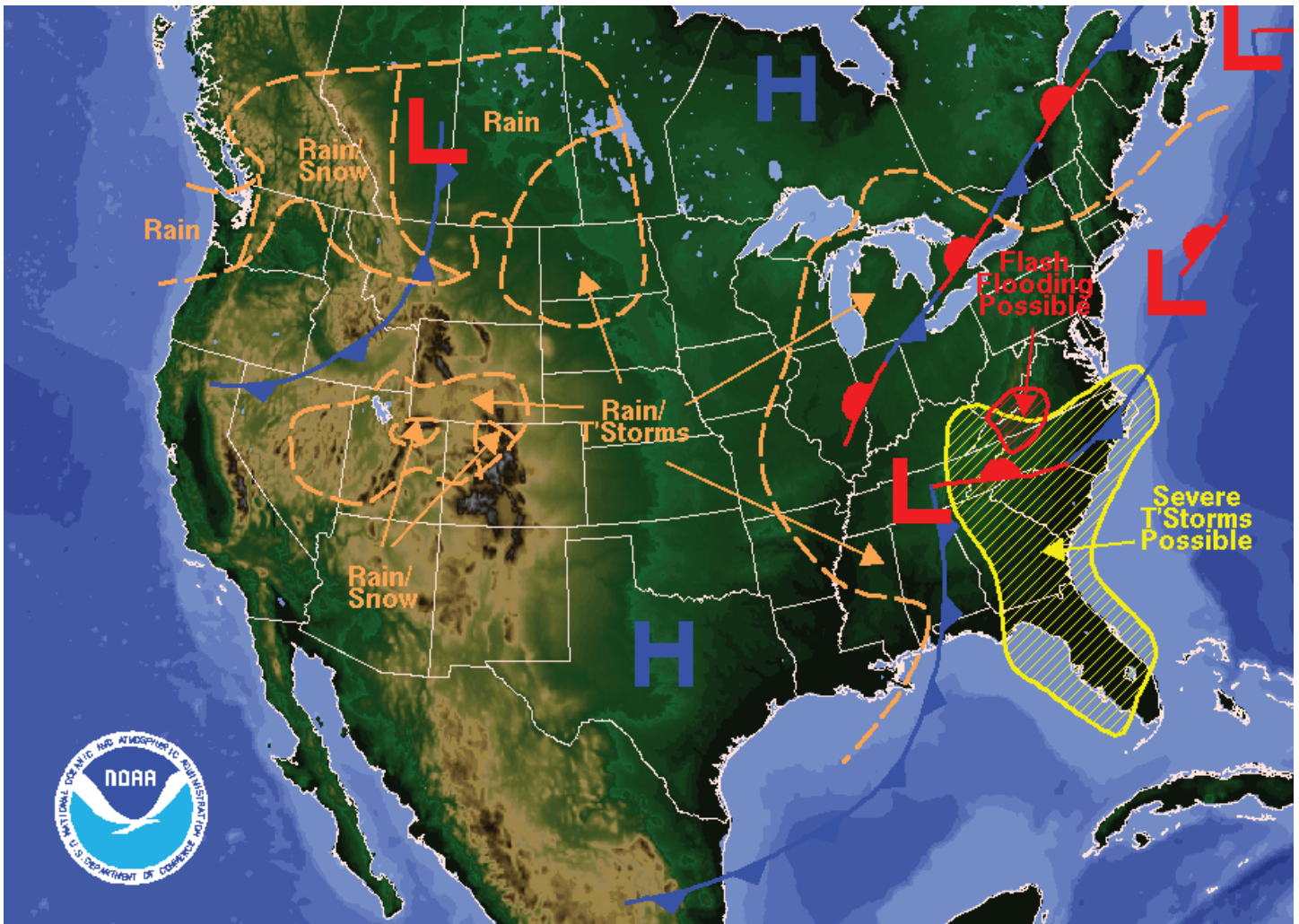
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 56.9 F at 7:48 PM
Low Outside Temp: 45.3 F at 11:53 PM
High Gust: 27.0 Mph at 2:03 PM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 99° in 1926
Record Low: 25° in 1897
Average High: 71°F
Average Low: 47°F
Average Precip in May: 2.44
Precip to date in May: 1.21
Average Precip to date: 6.47
Precip Year to Date: 3.19
Sunset Tonight: 9:07 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:53 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Wed, May 24, 2017, issued 4:34 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Mcreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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GOD IS GOOD

Only God can be called "good." And His very name comes from His "goodness." When "good" and "goodness" are shortened, we end up with "God."

Everything that comes from God - His creation or consul, His laws and love, His promises and provisions - must be good because the nature of God Himself is "good!"

God is not good to us if we are good, nor does He treat us bad if we are bad. Those who say, "God won't be good to you if you are bad" do not understand God nor who He is.

The Psalmist did. He wrote, "The Lord is good to all!"

We recognize God's goodness in the way He provided for our salvation. After a young Brahman interviewed a missionary, he said, "Hinduism has many things which Christianity has. But there is one thing which you have that we do not have - a Savior." We have a Savior because of God's goodness. It was His goodness that flowed from His love that He sent His Son to be our Savior. Only a "Good God" would make such a supreme sacrifice to make salvation possible which is available "to all!"

We realize God's goodness in the way He met the needs of everyone. The food that grows in fields, on bushes and branches, vines and beneath the soil was first planted by God for everyone. The water, which God gave us for survival, falls on the "just and the unjust." Why?

Again, the Psalmist said: "His tender mercies are over all."

God is good. But one day, all will stand before Him in judgment and be asked: "Is my Son your Savior?"

Prayer: Lord, we recognize Your eternal goodness and grace and ask Your forgiveness and cleansing for our sins. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 145:9 The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.

News from the Associated Press

State officials warn about dangers of approaching buffalo

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks is reminding visitors to Custer State Park that buffalo are dangerous and shouldn't be approached.

Lydia Austin, interpretive program manager for Custer State Park, says the large animals may appear docile, but they're actually wild and hard to predict. She says it's safest to view them from a vehicle.

Austin says the state park has experienced an increase in visitor-buffalo interactions in recent years. Last summer, the park reported incidents in which visitors approached buffalo, including four goring events that caused injuries.

Man testifies in his own trial in marijuana resort case

FLANDREAU, S.D. (AP) — A man on trial for his alleged role in a marijuana grow room on the Flandreau Santee Sioux Reservation testified Tuesday that he had visited the facility just three times, as prosecutors tried to tie him to day-to-day management of the operation.

Eric Hagen, president of Monarch America, worked with the Santee Sioux Tribe on its operation about 45 miles north of Sioux Falls, after the Justice Department cleared the way for Indian tribes to grow and sell marijuana under the same conditions as some states that have legalized pot.

The tribe ultimately destroyed its crop in November 2015 after federal officials signaled a potential raid. Hagen and fellow consultant Jonathan Hunt were charged about nine months later. Hagen, 34, of Sioux Falls, has pleaded not guilty to charges of conspiracy to possess, possession and attempted possession of more than 10 pounds of marijuana.

Hagen testified Tuesday that when the tribe destroyed the crop in 2015, he walked away, according to the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2qTkf7R>).

When tribal leaders initially touted their plan to open the resort on tribal land in Flandreau, President Anthony Reider said they wanted it to be "an adult playground." They projected as much as \$2 million in monthly profits, with ambitious plans that included a smoking lounge with a nightclub, bar and food service, and eventually an outdoor music venue. They planned to use the money for community services and to provide income to tribal members.

Hagen testified Tuesday that Monarch's agreement with the tribe was limited only to the grow facility, and had nothing to do with the smoke lounge. Hagen said Monarch did business with other tribes, but he also admitted that both Monarch and the Flandreau Santee Sioux stood to make money if the marijuana resort idea took off.

The jury is expected to get the case Wednesday after closing arguments.

Information from: Argus Leader, <http://www.argusleader.com>

Trump administration dropping nuclear waste burial test

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The U.S. Department of Energy is abandoning a test meant to determine whether nuclear waste can be buried far underground because of changes in budget priorities, the agency said Tuesday.

A spokeswoman said in a statement that the agency doesn't intend to continue supporting the Deep Borehole Field Test project, which was meant to assess whether nuclear waste could be stored in approximately 3-mile-deep holes. Officials had stressed it wouldn't involve the use of actual nuclear waste.

Federal energy officials said in December that companies were exploring potential sites for the test in South Dakota, Texas and New Mexico. Only one company would have eventually carried out the field test.

The project's contract dictated that after the project was completed, the borehole would have been permanently sealed and the land restored.

Local officials in North Dakota and South Dakota had previously rebuffed project organizers over nuclear waste concerns.

South Dakota U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem in a statement applauded the Energy Department's move, saying that she and local community members were deeply concerned about doing testing in "our backyard" to see whether boreholes could store nuclear waste.

"I am grateful to the Trump administration for hearing the concerns raised by these communities and subsequently withdrawing consideration of this proposal," Noem said.

U.S. Sen. John Thune said in a statement that he's glad the Trump administration has decided to end the project in the wake of strong public opposition. A spokesman for Gov. Dennis Daugaard said in a statement that he didn't object to the test as long as it wouldn't have led to nuclear waste storage in South Dakota.

The proposed site in South Dakota was in Haakon County. Edward Briggs, chairman of the county commission, said he was neutral toward the project.

"They claimed that this thing was strictly a research hole," said Briggs, who wasn't fully convinced it wouldn't have meant future nuclear waste storage. "Your gut instinct tells you that's where it would probably lead to in 10-15 years."

Todd Kenner, CEO of RESPEC, a company pursuing the South Dakota site, said that the company is reaching out to local community leaders to inform them of the decision.

The Trump administration on Tuesday sent Congress a federal spending plan that seeks \$120 million to revive the mothballed Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository, which is hugely unpopular in Nevada and was largely stopped by the efforts of former Democratic Sen. Harry Reid.

Waste from commercial reactors in the U.S. now is stored onsite at nuclear power plants. The waste generated from defense activities is kept at a few secure locations.

South Dakota couple has 'rainbow baby' after 5 miscarriages

By VICTORIA LUSK, Aberdeen News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Anne and Tyler Weig welcomed their first-born child, Camden, Aug. 24, 2016.

Even the medical professionals who helped them along the way aren't apt to forget that day.

That's in large part because Anne Weig miscarried her first five pregnancies, always at the five-week mark. Five babies lost within a year and a half.

"It's probably the hardest thing we've gone through as a married couple. The testing that we went through, the procedures, all the lab work, the bills, they just kept coming in. It was very stressful," Anne told the Aberdeen News (<http://bit.ly/2qHnkIX>).

But just one glance at Camden makes it all worth it.

"He's definitely a miracle," she said.

Babies born after the mother has miscarried or had a stillborn child are sometimes called "rainbow babies." Because each of the miscarriages was at the same point in pregnancy, the Weigs knew something was wrong.

"It wasn't just coincidental. I was getting pregnant. I was having that positive pregnancy test, positive lab work," Anne said.

But labs, scopes and ultrasounds wouldn't back up the thought that there was an underlying cause.

"Everything looked OK," Anne said. "But then I lost another."

A friend and co-worker suggested she visit Dr. David and Marilyn Wachs, a married couple and Avera staffers trained in the Creighton Model FertilityCare System.

Essentially, the couple-based system uses charting to document a woman's external body observations and determine fertility on a day-to-day basis. It uses what's called Natural Procreative Technology.

"The NaPro Technology has allowed us to, in a sense, look at couples in a different light than traditional medicine," David Wachs said. "The frustration part (in the Weigs' case) was that she had so many miscar-

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riages.”

Anne began following the system in April 2015.

“There’s multiple reasons for infertility that we’re helping people get pregnant with, but that wasn’t their problem. They had no problem getting pregnant. They kept losing them,” David explained.

It’s a different workup for someone who has repetitive miscarriages, he said.

“That’s where the chart gave us some clues of where to look,” David said.

Creighton model charts alone did not reveal the cause of Weig’s miscarriages. A more thorough dilation and curettage — a procedure that removes tissue from the uterus — showed that she has endometriosis and polycystic ovary syndrome.

It wasn’t until the Wachs attended a conference in July that he made the connection. He mentioned Anne Weig’s case to another medical professional, who suggested he test her for methylenetetrahydrofolate reductase, a rare genetic blood clotting disorder often referred to as MTHFR.

Wachs now believes that the blood clots would stop flow to the placenta site, causing the miscarriages.

The treatment was aspirin and daily shots of Lovenox. Both serve as blood thinners.

Even with three diagnoses and her treatment, there was still hesitation to get excited when Anne again tested positive for pregnancy in December 2015.

“We were very cautious,” she said.

The first time her labs were drawn, the hormones that indicate pregnancy were so low that Anne felt discouraged.

“But Dr. Wachs said, ‘No, just stay the course,’” she said.

That meant more hormone shots and weekly visits to the doctor.

The five-week mark brought ample anxiety — so much so that she didn’t expect to hit the sixth week. Instead of expecting to carry to full term, miscarrying had become something she just waited for.

“Sometimes she could just sense it,” Tyler Weig said.

That’s why reaching the six-week mark was a milestone, though a tenuous one.

“I was nervous still. But I was kind of excited. I had never gotten to that point,” Anne Weig said. “I never really stopped stressing until he was here.”

Because of her history, she was given an early ultrasound at nine weeks.

“And that’s when we heard the heartbeat and he looked like a little tiny tadpole,” Anne said, her face lighting up. “That helped alleviate some of our fears.”

Finally, some excitement.

“At each doctor’s appointment, I became more and more confident that this was becoming a reality instead of just a dream that I’ve always had,” she said.

Of course, Anne is not alone.

The Wachs have had more than 500 clients use NaPro since 1993.

“There’s definitely more a of need for it now, especially concerning infertility,” Marilyn Wachs said.

The Weigs were not as publicly open during their miscarriages, keeping the knowledge of each loss to close friends and family. Now, however, Anne Weig sees sharing her story as a way to help others.

Those who knew about her miscarriages sometimes struggled to know what to say.

“Half the time, they didn’t say anything,” Anne Weig said. “And I felt lost. I felt like a failure as a woman and I felt like no one could relate to me, although there’s many people out there that have lived through the same thing.”

March of Dimes statistics indicate that 15 to 25 percent of pregnancies end in miscarriages. In other words, according to the data, 10 to 15 of every 100 women who know they are pregnant miscarry.

“I would break down, cry to my mom,” Anne said. “We thought if my mom was able to have children, why can’t I?”

Although MRHFT is hereditary, Anne said her mom has a different form of the gene mutation that does not cause the same problems.

The Wachs continue to help other couples — with infertility, repetitive miscarriages, postpartum de-

pression and more — through the Creighton system.

"It's always exciting with infertility and repetitive miscarriages to see success right here in front of you," David Wachs said.

The Weigs continue to follow the model as it can be used to avoid pregnancy naturally.

"It's been discussed," Tyler said of the prospect of having another child. "We kind of want them around two years apart."

And, his wife pointed out, nearly one year has already passed.

Information from: Aberdeen American News, <http://www.aberdeennews.com>

New technology looks to fill senior care workforce gaps

By PATRICK ANDERSON, Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Rita Dozal doesn't want to worry about her mom having to train the nursing aides.

But there are times when the 87-year-old nursing home resident doesn't know who is going to help her get to bed at night. She doesn't know who is going to help her when she wakes up in the morning. She doesn't know who's going to bring her meals.

Every time, especially on the weekends, it could be a new face. A new face with minimal training.

"These people are here 24 hours a day every day and they can't go home," Dozal told the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2qNdrZ9>). "So you have to create an environment that they feel they have consistency and that they're home."

Workforce shortages in South Dakota nursing homes will likely get worse unless something is done to fix the problem. To fill the gap, businesses are responding with new technology, and a focus on creating a strong workplace culture for new employees.

Dozens of nursing homes in the state are failing again and again in the same category. State officials have raised red flags about the lack of workers, especially at front-line positions, such as aides, who work directly with residents such as Dozal's mother, a double amputee and diabetic.

Leaders for Avera eCARE are preparing to break free from grant funding next year with a business-to-business telemedicine model they developed in part thanks to federal innovation dollars that will allow a team of care providers to assist nursing homes in rural areas. Executives for a newly opened assisted living community in western Sioux Falls, Grand Living at Lake Lorraine, say they are beating the workforce shortage by reinforcing a culture of respect and dignity for both residents and employees.

New to a Sioux Falls market, where local joblessness already hangs well below 3 percent, Grand Living has been able to hire on employees, CEO Dan Peterka said.

Peterka knows full well how hard hiring can be in the senior care industry.

"Everybody I think is confronted with what employment is," Peterka said. "We've had really good success."

Sioux Falls and the rest of the state are at the cross section of two troubling trends when it comes to finding staff to provide medical treatment at assisted living and nursing home communities.

One is a local problem of low unemployment and the shortages created across industries, from restaurants to construction. Nursing homes and other long-term care facilities are competing with other sectors when it comes to filling entry-level jobs. Aides and other starting positions don't require much training, but it can be difficult for employers to compete for the pool of potential workers because of the work involved in assisted living — or at least because of the perception.

"They're really competing with everybody else," said Gloria Pearson, who heads the state's Department of Human Services. "If you're going to receive the same pay and benefits, it's just really hard to recruit people and then retain them as well."

State officials commissioned a report in 2015 about long-term care options in South Dakota. The company hired to conduct the research, Abt Associates Inc., noted problems with the projected workforce.

Adding to the complexity of the state's workforce shortage is a second, broader problem of the aging

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Baby Boomers and anemic growth in the number of long-term care providers across all specialties, from doctors to aids to social workers.

The number of South Dakotans older than 65 is projected to grow 84 percent between 2010 and 2035, according to state population data.

The trend line for employment in long-term care, meanwhile, is far less steep. Between 2014 and 2024, all jobs in the residential care sector are expected to increase 6.5 percent, according to the state Department of Labor.

It's a problem the state's AARP office is well aware of and trying to address.

"I definitely see that there is a trend," said Eric Gaikowski, state director for AARP South Dakota. "An increased need for workers in that area."

Dan Peterka knew what he was getting into when he started Grand Living, the company that runs the Lake Lorraine assisted living community.

Peterka worked for years in the industry before co-founding the Twin Cities-based business that is quickly expanding its presence in the Midwest with new projects in Sioux Falls and Iowa, not including freshly inked deals to open two more assisted living communities in Florida.

He's not worried about finding workers. That's because from the start his company has been very intentional about the culture and "resort style" hospitality it promotes among its staff.

"We've had very good success because of our service culture," Peterka said. "The caliber of individual that we select and hire within our company . we've been very blessed from that standpoint."

Grand Living leaders have a carefully guided approach to customer service, using a set of philosophies crafted with help from a former Ritz-Carlton executive. The company even branded its approach to service, called "The Sterling Touch."

Three cornerstones provide the foundation of Grand Living's approach to service, Peterka said: A passion to provide remarkable, personalized experiences to clients, recognizing dedicated staff and respecting contributions of others to the daily work.

The company also has 10 principles for customer service, and each day employees focus on one.

"It's how we sustain our customer service culture," Peterka said.

Dozal doesn't see much consistency for her mother, who needed to leave assisted living years ago for the increased care available at a nursing home.

Cracks are already showing from the workforce shortage and the effect of a continued drought leave her wondering about the management of Sioux Falls Village, the nursing home where her mother lives. Her most pressing question: What kind of care is her mom getting?

"You've got so many people coming and going," Dozal said. "You lose a lot of efficiencies, you lose a lot of confidence."

Inspectors have reported thousands of deficiencies at South Dakota nursing homes in the last four years, and one of the most common offenses was a failure to meet professional standards.

Between 2015 and 2016, Sioux Falls Village was repeatedly written up for not having policies that properly screened employees and allowed for reporting abuse, and for ensuring staff met professional standards of quality. The Good Samaritan Society-run facility failed to meet those standards in three successive inspections, spread across a year and a half.

A Good Samaritan spokesman didn't respond by print deadline to a request for comment. But Sioux Falls Village is far from the worst offender. Nursing homes across the state failed to meet professional quality standards, many of them failing in that same category inspection after inspection, year after year. Nursing homes in Woonsocket, Flandreau, Garretson and Lennox all failed multiple times.

Professional standards of quality was one of the biggest overall failings of nursing homes in the state, according to four years of Medicaid data, with 193 total infractions.

The AARP sees solutions on a couple of fronts, especially as members express a desire to live at home longer and avoid community-based settings, Gaikowski said.

One of those is paying more respect to the family caregivers who sacrifice their own personal time to provide for their older relatives.

"The more they can provide services in their homes," Gaikowski said. "They're better able to stay in their home; they don't have to take up a nursing home bed."

But another solution to the state's problematic workforce problem is telemedicine.

Avera eCARE was able to serve 45 additional long-term care facilities in the region thanks to an \$8.8 million federal innovation grant it received in 2015. Now in its final and third year of the grant, eCARE leaders are hopeful about the business model moving forward that will allow them to continue contracting with nursing homes and easing the burden on health care providers.

The Sioux Falls-based call center includes a team of physicians, nurses, mental health providers and social workers who can answer calls remotely, working directly with patients. Collaborating with family doctors and other providers who work one-on-one with the patient, telemedicine allows for a faster response, said Deanna Larson, CEO for Avera eCARE.

"We augment, we support them, we specialize," Larson said. "We want to be there when they need us."

Dr. Joseph Rees works with eCARE's long-term care team as a fellow. He wants to earn credentials in geriatric medicine because he likes the team approach to care. But he also noticed something happening around him as he worked with other Avera Health patients in his years as a hospitalist.

"There was certainly a growing proportion of patients that were elderly," Rees said.

Information from: Argus Leader, <http://www.argusleader.com>

South Dakota working to be among first to get 5G technology

By JEREMY J. FUGLEBERG, Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — When Scott Sandal is talking to potential clients, he seems to always get the same question about the speed and bandwidth of the internet he relies on for his business.

"They're like, 'in South Dakota?'" he said.

Sandal is Sunbird Software's director of service and support. From Sioux Falls, Sandal runs a team monitoring the power needs of data centers all over the globe.

It's a job that requires a lot of bandwidth. But in Sioux Falls, Sandal's got it. Same in Lennox, where he lives, connected online via a fiber optic line.

The quality internet connection helps Sandal recruit South Dakotans who might otherwise look for information technology jobs elsewhere but find themselves seriously considering a big-bandwidth job here.

"Just the idea of being able to work from home to support this global customer base," Sandal told the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2rjcG7V>).

The future of broadband in South Dakota is increasingly the future of business here, and the challenges are many, especially in a largely rural state.

While South Dakota is relatively well equipped with broadband internet access and an expanding network of fiber optic lines, the next step is close on the horizon.

Wireless providers are working now to build out dense-network, small-footprint cell technology that will prove crucial for what's next: fifth-generation mobile data, or 5G. South Dakota's senior U.S. senator, John Thune, is spearheading federal legislation to speed up 5G deployment before 2020.

"I think 5G really does represent the not-too-distant future, it's not just an incremental step in mobile speed," Thune said.

Business' hunger for bandwidth is growing. Remote IT assistance, data backup and cloud storage are no longer new, and their growing importance for firms large and small has expanded business demand for bandwidth.

High-speed mobile data is the future for many business sectors, including agriculture, telemedicine, virtual reality, internet-connected appliances and driver-free vehicles.

Mobile data is increasingly how we live. Increasingly, it's how business gets done.

"The devices have changed, the bandwidth has changed, and how we use it in our lives have changed," said Mark Shlanta, CEO of Sioux Falls-based SDN Communications.

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South Dakota isn't entirely connected by fiber optic cable that allows for speedier broadband, but it is surprisingly good at a problem in many parts of the United States: the rural-urban digital divide. This could prove a crucial key to unlocking the future of 5G wireless data access.

Cities, with their concentration of customers, are natural targets for communications companies in terms of the biggest and best broadband access, and any maps of broadband access will show South Dakota's cities are well served by one or more broadband providers with strong speeds.

So how about the rural areas? Broadband is, for the most part, carried by wires. And just as with electrification and paved roads, rural, less-populated parts of the country are sometimes last in line to connect to the rest of the world.

But not in South Dakota. There might even be room to brag a little bit.

"In other states, and you might hear a little bit of that in the national discourse, there's a 'rural digital divide,'" said Shlanta, whose SDN Communications was founded by independent telephone companies in the state that interconnected their networks in 1989. "I would argue (in South Dakota) it might be the inverse. That parts of our more urban communities may be lagging than some of the rural deployments."

About 80 percent of South Dakota's geography is served by independent telecommunications providers, many of whom have strong fiber networks in place even in rural areas and smaller cities. In a quick survey, SDN's Vernon Brown heard from 10 member companies. Six are 100 percent fiber networks and another four were at 50 percent or better.

The advantages for business in the state are clear. Like Sandal in Lennox, being able to do business from outside the state's largest cities pays dividends.

"It's advantageous for business to establish businesses anywhere in the state," said Denny Law, CEO and general manager of Golden West Telecommunications in Wall, which serves customers across western South Dakota and parts of the eastern side of the state.

"Certainly the populated areas are good," he said. "But the possibility of a 4-6 person shop in Phillip or Springfield or Dell Rapids is a potential game changer for them, I think."

If South Dakota is to fully harness the future roll-out of 5G wireless data, with its dense network and blazing speed, it will require a strong backbone in both urban and rural areas.

"For 5G to be successful it will require a pretty phenomenal network to transport all of that data," Law said. "And I think that's the role a company like Golden West plays in that, to help facilitate 5G."

And, a little legislative help.

John Thune took his 5G sales pitch to Dakota State University last month, and he didn't pull any punches.

"We're very interested in getting to 5G first," he said. "We're competing with the Europeans, with the Asians, everybody wants to get to fifth-generation technology when it comes to mobile first, and we have to win that race."

South Dakota's senior U.S. senator is the chair of the powerful Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, with oversight of the national telecommunications laws and regulations. In March, Thune introduced the Mobile NOW Act, a bill to open up spectrum to telecommunications companies and smooth the path for 5G technology, and moved it through his committee to the Senate floor. The generally accepted target date for 5G is 2020. Thune wants to beat it.

In an April 24 interview, Thune said he had talked to the Trump administration only informally about his bill. But he said the bill should get bipartisan support and gain Trump's support as legislation that could add jobs and boost economy productivity.

"If they're looking for victories, legislative accomplishments they can point to that are transformative for our economy and have bipartisan support, this is something that can accomplish that," he said.

While the legislation awaits congressional approval and a Trump signature, others are fighting smaller, more local battles.

"I use the word 'densification,'" said SDN's Shlanta. "Wireless carriers, 20-25 years ago, were trying to establish coverage so people could complete phone calls. Today their bigger needs aren't coverage, they're capacity, and the way to accomplish that is greater densification of the networks."

Verizon Wireless is working to build out what are known as small cells, mounting essentially mini cell units atop kiosks and light and power poles. The denser network adds capacity to Verizon's 4G LTE service, and is a key stepping stone for 5G, which will require a fiber-connected, small-cell backbone.

Thune's legislation, in part, is meant to address permitting concerns for small cells, which often face the same permitting hurdles as their much, much larger cell tower predecessors.

"Every South Dakota city is different and many local codes treat small cells the same as a larger traditional cell site," said Meagan Dorsch, a Verizon spokeswoman. "This result can be lengthy and costly permitting that discourages new investment."

"Providing a streamlined process that treats small cells as a permitted use and allowing the attachment of small cells to existing structures in the public right of way will allow companies to build the next generation of 4G LTE for its customers," she said.

While 5G may be the future, and South Dakota's networks are better positioned than some states to handle it, Law struck a cautionary note. Look for the rollout to follow the more traditional path from urban to rural, he said.

"It's going to be an interesting urban application, but it's going to take a while before neighborhoods have it, and before small communities have it and certainly before rural areas have it," he said. "But I also think it will be cool when it gets here."

In terms of 5G and South Dakota business, 'cool' means game-changing.

Information from: Argus Leader, <http://www.argusleader.com>

People seek doomsday shelters in South Dakota city

By SETH TUPPER, Rapid City Journal

IGLOO, S.D. (AP) — They came from Pennsylvania, New Mexico, Indiana and New York, all for the chance to put \$5,000 down on one of the hundreds of concrete bunkers in a cow pasture on the remote southern edge of the Black Hills.

Kenneth Young drove his Mercedes Benz from Rockaway Beach in Queens. When he stepped out of his car on the deserted grounds of the former Black Hills Army Depot, his iPhone and cigars fell in the mud.

Though he looked out of place in his yellow cardigan, his designer ball cap and his green cargo pants, he came prepared with an umbrella and mud boots, which proved useful on a cold, rainy and muddy day on the plains of southwestern South Dakota.

But why was he there?

"I believe the government is in contact with aliens, and they're lying to us," he told the Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2qNsaU8>).

His wife, meanwhile, never got out of the car as he drove around the sprawling complex, got out to inspect a bunker labeled B-201 and talked to other early attendees at xFest, a three-day gathering for people who want to convert the site's bunkers, which formerly housed bombs, into shelters for protection against tyranny, anarchy, nuclear war, the end times or any other calamity that might befall civilization.

The project is the brainchild of Robert Vicino, a California entrepreneur who has an agreement with a local ranching company to offer 575 of the site's estimated 830 bunkers for lease. The price is \$25,000 upfront, and then \$1,000 a year thereafter, plus \$99 in monthly dues to cover security, well water and other services. The work and the cost of converting the barren, earth-covered bunkers into livable spaces will be the responsibility of the tenants.

Vicino figures he needs 50 to 100 clients to reserve bunkers with \$5,000 deposits before he can start turning the abandoned former military installation into a community. People will not be allowed to live there full-time, at least initially, but Vicino said they will come for periodic stays to work on their bunkers. He wants to provide a medical clinic, a general store, a bring-your-own-beverage bar and other facilities and amenities, both to serve the tenants when they visit and to be ready for their full-time use if doomsday ever arrives.

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The people Vicino wants to attract are often called "preppers," or "doomsday preppers," terms that have become shorthand for anyone who is unusually devoted to preparing for disasters. On the more than 20 square miles that comprise the old Black Hills Army Depot, Vicino has found a prepper haven.

The site's unusual history dates to 1942, when the U.S. government selected a big patch of rolling western wheat grass and buffalo grass about 10 miles southwest of the small town of Edgemont — about 85 miles southwest of Rapid City — for what was then called the Black Hills Ordnance Depot. Until 1967, the military stored, maintained and destroyed ammunition at the complex, including bombs, grenades, mines and rockets.

The government built more than 800 concrete ammunition storage bunkers across the sprawling site and covered them with sod. Because the bunkers resemble igloos, the town full of military and civilian personnel that sprang up next to the depot became known as Igloo.

For the past 50 years, the depot has been abandoned and Igloo has been emptied of all but perhaps a dozen residents. One of those is Robert Chubb, who was putting some finishing touches on a large shed he built recently to store military surplus and survival gear. He has started a business selling the stuff, and he hopes to pull some customers out of the stream of preppers that could soon be passing his way.

In Igloo and on the depot grounds, hundreds of administrative buildings and other structures have been reduced to ruins by the passage of five decades, but the igloo bunkers remain as sturdy as ever. They are now under the control of local owners who pasture their cows in and around them.

Vicino has an agreement with one of the local entities, S&S Land and Cattle Co., and its partner corporation, Fort Igloo Bunkers. The agreement covers 575 of the 830 bunkers and allows Vicino to market them for lease through his own company, called Vivos. His plan for a massive prepper community, which he is calling Vivos xPoint, has attracted worldwide attention.

The 6-foot-8-inch Vicino was on site in a camper with several helpers for the beginning of his xFest gathering, a meet-and-greet for potential lessees. Perhaps half-dozen prospects had arrived despite a heavy fog, a steady mist, temperatures that rose only into the 40s, and an abundance of thick and sticky mud that clung to tires and shoes.

Vicino said he expected as many as several hundred people to tour the xPoint grounds by the end of the weekend. The initial arrivals were a diverse mix of personalities.

Besides Young, the alien-fearing New Yorker in the Mercedes Benz, there was Mark Bowman, a working-class, plaid shirt-wearing tradesman from Indiana who came in a pickup with a trailer full of tools and gear. Bowman said he has visited other potential doomsday shelter sites and immediately liked this one better. As he walked in and around one of the igloo bunkers, he talked rapidly and excitedly about his plans to convert it into a living space.

His reason for wanting a doomsday shelter?

"Something's gonna happen," he said while sweeping his arms wide, indicating a world full of potential catastrophes.

There was also an older, well-dressed couple who grew up in Columbia and now live in Pennsylvania. The husband, who requested that his name not be published, said it was his wife's idea to look at the bunkers. He formerly worked in New York City, he said, and was five blocks away from the World Trade Center towers when they were attacked and felled by terrorists on Sept. 11, 2001.

The trauma of witnessing that event, and of being cooped up in a congested city while the world seemed to be crumbling around them, led the couple to seek less-crowded confines in Pennsylvania. The husband alluded to their 9/11 experience as one reason his wife grew interested in the psychological and physical insurance against disaster that a doomsday bunker represents.

The visitors were struck, as all visitors to the site are, by the eerie silence and isolation of a place that once bustled with activity. The bunkers sprawl across the area, each one with a small ventilation pipe that sticks out of the top like a sentry.

Inside, the bunkers have semicircular ceilings like a Quonset hut. They are 13 feet tall at their highest interior point, their width is nearly 27 feet, and their lengths alternate between 60 and 80 feet, which

means the floor space ranges from about 1,600 to 2,100 square feet.

Vicino has published a schematic drawing that depicts a bunker outfitted with all kinds of luxurious modern amenities, but there is nothing in the bunkers now — no water, no electricity and no restroom facilities, let alone beds or furniture. Vicino said the site has two deep wells that provide water for cattle but will eventually be used to bring water to the bunkers. He also envisions wind power for electricity and composting toilets instead of septic systems.

Some symbols of modernity were already on site in the form of two food trucks that Vicino's company convinced to travel down from Rapid City for the event. The cooks inside the trucks were hoping for more customers over the weekend, as was Vicino, whose determination to succeed was obvious.

"Others have thought of things to do here, but nobody else has made it work," Vicino said. "We will."

Information from: Rapid City Journal, <http://www.rapidcityjournal.com>

Man buried alive in trench collapse, saved by co-workers

EMERY, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say quick intervention by his co-workers likely saved a man buried when a water-sewer trench collapsed in Emery.

Fire Chief Brian Leitheiser says that except for the man's hand, the construction worker was completely covered in dirt Tuesday. He was on a crew from a Fort Pierre construction company working on a water and sewer replacement project.

Leitheiser says the quick action by his co-workers likely saved the man's life. He has not been identified. The Daily Republic (<http://bit.ly/2qSgbEE>) says the crew members and an EMT cleared the man's head in about five minutes. It took another 30 minutes to completely uncover him.

Information from: The Daily Republic, <http://www.mitchellrepublic.com>

Indiana-Minnesota opens Big 10 tourney; Nebraska is top seed

Minnesota will throw the first pitch of the Big Ten baseball tournament, facing Indiana to start the eight-team event. The third seed Gophers will get the double-elimination bracket going against the sixth seed Hoosiers, who are hosting this year. First-time regular season champion Nebraska will play eighth seed Purdue. The other openers pit Michigan against Northwestern and Maryland opposite Iowa. The champion gets an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament.

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Minnesota will throw the first pitch of the Big Ten baseball tournament, facing Indiana to start the eight-team event.

The third seed Gophers will get the double-elimination bracket going Wednesday morning against the sixth seed Hoosiers, who are hosting this year.

First-time regular season champion Nebraska will play eighth seed Purdue. Second seed Michigan will face seventh seed Northwestern. Fourth seed Maryland and fifth seed Iowa will square off in the last of the four Wednesday openers.

The championship is Sunday afternoon with an NCAA tournament automatic bid for the winner, which was Ohio State last year. Minnesota and Nebraska received at-large bids to the NCAA tournament in 2016.

The Big Ten tournament began in 1981. Michigan, Minnesota and Ohio State have the most titles with nine apiece.

Farmers market being double taxed in Sioux Falls?

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The Sioux Falls Farmers Market says South Dakota revenue officials are pressuring the organization to collect a 1.5 percent tourism tax in addition to the sales tax participants charge on their products.

The Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2qSmwxS>) says revenue officials cite a South Dakota law that says the state can impose a tourism tax on sales that take place at visitor attractions, recreational services,

spectator events or a "visitor-intensive business."

State revenue department spokesman Wade LaRoche says because the farmers market takes place Falls Parks, a Sioux Falls visitor attraction, it's subject to the additional tourism tax.

Susan Randall sells produce at the market and says it has hired an attorney to try to work on a compromise.

Information from: Argus Leader, <http://www.argusleader.com>

Man allegedly fires accidental shot while cleaning handgun

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police say a South Dakota man has been arrested after accidentally firing a handgun he was cleaning in his garage.

The Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2rPfnhf>) reports that the bullet went into his neighbor's living room. Authorities say 65-year-old Kim Eugene Sigler is accused of reckless discharge of a firearm and possession of a firearm while intoxicated.

Sigler was allegedly cleaning the handgun in Sioux Falls when it slipped from his hand and fired as he tried to catch it. The 56-year-old neighbor was sitting on the floor when she saw dust and debris scatter in her living room.

It wasn't immediately clear if Sigler has an attorney.

Information from: Argus Leader, <http://www.argusleader.com>

'We can use peace': Trump and Pope Francis meet

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, NICOLE WINFIELD and JULIE PACE, Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — President Donald Trump and Pope Francis, two leaders with contrasting styles and differing worldviews, met at the Vatican on Wednesday, setting aside their previous clashes to broadcast a tone of peace for an audience around the globe.

Trump, midway through a grueling nine-day, maiden international journey, called upon the pontiff in a private, 30-minute meeting laden with religious symbolism and ancient protocol. The president, accompanied by his wife and several aides, arrived at the Vatican just after 8 a.m. local time. The president greeted Francis in Sala del Tronetto, the room of the little throne, on the second floor of Apostolic Palace.

Upon completing their meeting, the pope gave the president a medal featuring an olive branch, a symbol of peace, among other gifts.

"We can use peace," the president responded.

The visit began with a handshake after each man arrived, Trump in a lengthy motorcade, Francis in a Ford Focus. The president was heard thanking the pope and saying it was "a great honor" to be there. They posed for photographs and then sat down at the papal desk, the pope unsmiling, as their private meeting began.

It ended a half hour later when Francis rang the bell in his private study. The pontiff was then introduced to members of Trump's delegation, including his wife Melania, his daughter Ivanka and son-in-law Jared Kushner, as well as aides Hope Hicks and Dan Scavino.

Smiling for the staff, Francis had a light moment with the first lady, asking via translator, "What do you give him to eat, potizza?" referring to a favorite papal dessert from her native Slovenia.

The first lady laughed and said "Yes." She and Ivanka covered their heads in a sign of papal respect, a gesture they did not partake in Saudi Arabia.

As is tradition, the pope and president exchanged gifts. Trump presented the pontiff with a custom-bound, first-edition set of Martin Luther King Jr.'s works, an engraved stone from the King memorial in Washington and a bronze sculpture of a flowering lotus titled "Rising Above."

"I think you'll enjoy them. I hope you do," Trump said.

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The pope presented Trump with the medal, a message of peace and three bound papal documents that to some degree define his papacy and priorities, including the family and the environment. The pope told Trump he signed the message "personally for you." Trump said he would read the books.

When Trump departed, he told the pope: "Thank you, I won't forget what you said."

Later, as he met with Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni, Trump said of the pope: "He is something." "We had a fantastic meeting," the president said. "It was an honor to be with the pope."

A statement released by the Vatican later said "satisfaction was expressed" at their "joint commitment in favor of life" and that there was hoped-for collaboration on health care and assistance to immigrants and protection of Christian communities in the Middle East.

In recent days, Francis and Trump have been in agreement on a need for Muslim leaders to do more against extremists in their own communities. But there are few other areas where their views align.

The president's prior anti-Muslim rhetoric — including his musing that Islam "hates" the West — is the antithesis of what the pope has been preaching about a need for dialogue with Muslims. Francis also differs sharply with Trump on the need to combat climate change and economic inequality.

Trump's predecessor, Barack Obama, had a private audience with Francis at the Vatican in 2014 that lasted 50 minutes. But the timing Wednesday was tight as Francis had his weekly Wednesday general audience. The thousands of pilgrims on hand forced Trump's motorcade to enter Vatican City from a side entrance rather than the grand entrance through St. Peter's Square.

The meeting, which concluded Trump's tour of the world's largest monotheistic religions, comes after the president and pope collided head-on early last year, when Francis was sharply critical of Trump's campaign pledge to build an impenetrable wall on the Mexican border and his declaration that the United States should turn away Muslim immigrants and refugees.

"A person who thinks only about building walls, wherever they may be, and not building bridges, is not Christian," Francis said at the time. The pontiff has been a vocal advocate for aiding refugees, particularly those fleeing the violence in Syria, deeming it both a "moral imperative" and "Christian duty" to help.

Trump then called Francis "disgraceful" for doubting his faith.

Though both Trump and Francis are known for their unpredictability, papal visits with heads of state are carefully arranged bits of political and religious theater that follow a specific program, with little room for deviation or unwanted surprises. Trump, the 13th president to visit the Vatican, was also given a tour of the Sistine Chapel.

Trump's visit to the Eternal City follows two stops in the Middle East where he visited the cradles of Islam and Judaism. In Saudi Arabia, he addressed dozens of Arab leaders and urged them to fight extremists at home and isolate Iran, which he depicted as menace to the region. And in Israel, Trump reaffirmed his commitment to strong ties with the nation's longtime ally and urged Israelis and the Palestinians to begin the process of reaching a peace deal. No details or timetable have yet to be established for negotiations.

But while Trump received extravagantly warm welcomes in Riyadh and Jerusalem, the reception could grow much now that he's reached Europe, site of widespread protests after his election. Climate change activists projected the words "Planet Earth First" on the massive dome of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Tuesday night and protests are expected later in the week when Trump travels to Brussels for a NATO meeting and Sicily for a G-7 gathering.

Follow Lemire on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@JonLemire> , Winfield at <http://twitter.com/@nwinfield> and Pace at <http://twitter.com/@JPaceDC>

This story has been corrected to reflect the pope asked about potizza, not pizza.

3 more arrests in Manchester; London tourist sites protected

By JILL LAWLESS and GREGORY KATZ, Associated Press

MANCHESTER, England (AP) — British police and intelligence agencies arrested three more suspects Wednesday in connection with the Manchester suicide bombing and moved quickly to secure key sites across the country, including Buckingham Palace and the British Parliament at Westminster.

Home Secretary Amber Rudd said the bomber, identified as British-born Libyan Salman Abedi, "likely" did not act alone when he killed 22 people and wounded dozens at an Ariana Grande concert Monday night in Manchester. She said he had been known to security forces "up to a point."

Officials are examining Abedi's trips to Libya as they piece together his allegiances and try to foil any new potential threats.

Police said three men were arrested Wednesday in south Manchester, where a day earlier a 23-year-old man was also arrested and a number of homes were searched.

Britain raised its threat level from terrorism to "critical" after an emergency government meeting late Tuesday amid concerns that the 22-year-old Abedi may have accomplices who are planning another attack. British soldiers have been deployed in place of police officers to guard high-profile sites such as Buckingham Palace and Parliament.

The changing of the guard ceremony at Buckingham Palace was canceled Wednesday so police officers can be re-deployed, Britain's defense ministry said. The traditional ceremony is a major tourist attraction in London.

The Palace of Westminster, which houses the British Parliament in London, was also closed Wednesday to all those without passes, and tours and events there were cancelled until further notice. Armed police were also seen on patrol outside St. Paul's Cathedral in London, another popular tourist spot.

Officials said 984 soldiers were deployed Wednesday in London and in other locations.

Suicide bomber Abedi was born in Britain to a Libyan family, grew up in Manchester's southern suburbs and attended local Salford University for a time.

Police on Tuesday raided his house, using a controlled explosion to blast down the door. Neighbors recalled him as a tall, thin young man who often wore traditional Islamic dress and did not talk much.

British Prime Minister Theresa May chaired a meeting Wednesday of her emergency security cabinet group to talk about intelligence reports on Abedi and concerns that he might have had outside support.

Police also raided and searched a property elsewhere in Manchester where Abedi's brother Ismail is thought to have lived.

Officials are probing how often Abedi had traveled to Libya, which has seen an eruption of armed Islamist groups since dictator Moammar Gadhafi was overthrown and killed in 2011.

France's interior minister said Abedi is believed to have traveled to Syria and had "proven" links with the Islamic State group.

Minister Gerard Collomb said Wednesday on BFM television that British and French intelligence have information that Abedi had been to Syria. He did not elaborate but said it's unclear whether Abedi was part of a larger network of attackers.

British officials have not commented on whether Abedi had links to IS or other extremist groups.

Rudd said Britain's increased official threat level will remain at "critical" as the investigation proceeds and won't be lowered until security services are convinced there is no active plot in place.

She also complained about U.S. officials leaking sensitive information about Abedi to the press. Rudd said Britain's operational security could be harmed by the leaks, taking "the element of surprise" away from security services and police.

"I have been very clear with our friends that that should not happen again," she said.

In addition to those killed in the concert attack, Manchester officials raised to 119 the number of people who sought medical treatment after the attack, including those who traveled to hospitals on their own.

Sixty-four people are still hospitalized, Jon Rouse of the Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership said Wednesday. Officials say 20 of them are being treated for critical injuries.

Many of those still hospitalized had serious wounds that will require "very long term care and support in terms of their recovery," Rouse said.

Officials said all those hospitalized had been identified.

Soldiers were replacing armed police on Wednesday at sites like Buckingham Palace, 10 Downing Street and Parliament. London Police Commander Jane Connors said the goal is to "make our city as hostile an environment as possible for terrorists to plan and operate."

She said armed police patrols had been increased and will be ready to respond quickly to any incidents.

Collomb, who spoke with May after the attack, said the two countries should continue cooperating closely on counterterrorism efforts despite Britain's pending exit from the 28-nation European Union.

Katz reported from London. Sylvia Hui in London, Rob Harris in Manchester and Angela Charlton in Paris contributed.

Women CEOs earned more last year, but few were in top job

By JOSEPH PISANI, AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Women CEOs earned big bucks last year, but there's still very few of them running the world's largest companies.

The median pay for a female CEO was \$13.1 million last year, up 9 percent from 2015, according to an analysis by executive data firm Equilar and The Associated Press. By comparison, male CEOs earned \$11.4 million, also up 9 percent.

But the number of women in CEO roles has barely budged. Just 6 percent of the top paid CEOs in the U.S. last year were women, according to the Equilar and AP analysis, a slight increase from about 5 percent in 2015 and 2014.

The highest paid woman was Virginia Rometty of International Business Machines Corp., bumping out Yahoo's Marissa Mayer from the top spot.

Rometty earned \$32.3 million last year from the technology company, a 63 percent jump from the year before, mainly due to \$12.1 million in stock option awards she didn't receive in 2015.

Mayer earned \$27.4 million last year, making her the second-highest paid woman. But she may be out of a job after Yahoo Inc. completes the sale of its websites and email services to Verizon Wireless in June. She's not expected to join Verizon, and Yahoo has said Mayer will receive a \$23 million severance package if she departs.

Third on the list was Indra Nooyi of PepsiCo Inc., the maker of Mountain Dew soda and Lay's potato chips. She earned \$25.2 million, up 13 percent from 2015. She was followed by Mary Barra, the CEO of automaker General Motors Co., who earned \$22.4 million.

On the bottom of the list was Susan Story of American Water Works Co., the utility company, who earned \$4.1 million.

To calculate pay, Equilar added salary, bonus, perks, stock awards, stock option awards and other types of compensation. Equilar only looked at companies in the Standard & Poor's 500 index that filed proxy statements with federal regulators between Jan. 1 and April 30, 2016. And it only included CEOs that have been in their roles for at least two years in order to exclude sign-on bonuses. Of the 346 CEOs in that group, just 21 were women.

The only black woman on the list, Xerox's Ursula Burns, left the CEO role in January after the document management company split in two. Burns, who earned \$13.1 million as CEO last year, is now chairman of Xerox Corp.'s board.

Gracia Martore, who earned \$8.5 million last year, announced earlier this month that she will retire as CEO of Tegna Inc., the TV station owner and operator. Her replacement is a man.

Experts say companies need to do more to get women into CEO roles.

Janice Ellig, the co-CEO of executive search firm Chadick Ellig, says "unconscious bias" in the workplace is keeping women from getting opportunities that will put them on track to for top roles.

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Companies need to "start recognizing that gender inequality exists," say Ellig, who is also chairperson of the Women's Forum of New York.

"If you don't recognize a problem, you can't solve a problem," she says.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. BRITAIN STEPS UP MILITARY PATROLS; PROBES ATTACKER'S LIBYA TIES

British authorities work to piece together the allegiances of the Manchester suicide bomber and foil any new potential threats.

2. HAVING PREVIOUSLY CLASHED, TRUMP AND POPE MEET

The U.S. president meets with Francis, concluding his tour of the ancestral homes of the world's three largest monotheistic religions.

3. WHAT NATO IS DOING IN ADVANCE OF TRUMP ARRIVAL

The 28-nation military alliance is going to great lengths to show the U.S. leader that they're ramping up defense spending and doing more to fight terrorism.

4. TRUMP'S HEALTH CARE BUDGET MEANS DEEP CUTS FOR SAFETY NET

The Republican's first full budget calls for deep cuts to popular insurance programs — and it omits any proposal for negotiating prescription drug prices.

5. WHO'S TO BLAME WHEN KIDS GET SHOT

Children die from gun accidents in the U.S. with alarming frequency, and the decision of whether to prosecute vary widely from state to state, an investigation by the USA TODAY Network and the AP find.

6. HOSTAGES TAKEN IN PHILIPPINES; DUTERTE DECLARES MARTIAL LAW

Muslim extremists abduct a Catholic priest and more than a dozen churchgoers while laying siege to the southern city of Marawi.

7. ALASKA HOSTS PLATE TECTONICS RESEARCH EFFORT

A federal agency is installing instruments that record seismic waves as part of its quest to map the Earth's upper crust beneath North America.

8. ADVOCATES: FEDS CRUCIAL TO PRESERVING WATERWAYS

Cleaning up the Great Lakes, Chesapeake Bay and Puget Sound is a team effort, with government, nonprofit groups and universities pitching in, proponents say.

9. IN LIGHT OF PASSENGER DRAGGING, RULES COME TO LIGHT

United and other major carriers have policies in place that prohibit filming or photographing other customers or airline employees without their consent.

10. JUST HOSTING OLYMPICS TOOK EVERYTHING OUT OF RIO

Those struggles show that for all but the wealthiest cities, the smart thing is to say no to the Olympics, AP's Tim Dahlberg says.

Polish couple among those killed in Manchester blast

LONDON (AP) — The names of the 22 victims killed by a suicide bomber at a Manchester concert on Monday night have not been officially released, but here what's known about them so far:

A Polish couple who had come to collect their daughters from the concert were among the dead, according to Polish Foreign Minister Witold Waszczykowski.

The daughters — one a minor, one adult — were not hurt.

He did not give the couple's names and the ministry refused to release the personal details, but one of Marcin and Angelika Klis' daughters has been publicly searching for her parents since the explosion.

Waszczykowski also said that another Polish citizen, a father who was with his family at the concert,

was wounded and had undergone surgery in a hospital. Waszczykowski said "everything indicates that he will live."

Saffie Roussos, 8, is the youngest victim identified so far.

In a statement, the head teacher of the Tarleton Community Primary School that she attended in the village of Tarleton, Lancashire, described her as "simply a beautiful little girl in every aspect of the word. She was loved by everyone and her warmth and kindness will be remembered fondly. Saffie was quiet and unassuming with a creative flair."

The head teacher, Chris Upton, said her death was "a tremendous shock to all of us."

"The thought that anyone could go out to a concert and not come home is heartbreaking," he said.

The schoolgirl had been at the concert with her mother, Lisa Roussos, and sister, Ashlee Bromwich, in her 20s, from Leyland, Lancashire. They are both now in separate hospitals being treated for injuries, friends said.

Georgina Callander, a student, was a mega fan of Ariana Grande, with a picture of the two circulating on social media as her name emerged as the first confirmed victim.

Peter Rawlinson, deputy of the Bishop Rawstorne Church of England Academy in Croston, northwest of Manchester, where Callander was a former pupil, told The Associated Press that her family had confirmed the death.

Rawlinson says Callander "was academically a very gifted student, very hard-working. Just lovely to speak to."

The school posted a photo of Georgina on its website, smiling and look smart in her school uniform. It said she died of wounds from the attack and described her as "a lovely young student who was very popular with her peers and the staff."

Runshaw College in Leyland, Lancashire said Callander expressed "enormous sadness" at her death, saying she was on the second year of her health and social care course.

Priest among 14 hostages taken in siege of Philippines city

By JIM GOMEZ and TERESA CEROJANO, Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Muslim extremists abducted a Catholic priest and more than a dozen churchgoers while laying siege to a southern Philippine city overnight, burning buildings, ambushing soldiers and hoisting flags of the Islamic State group, officials said Wednesday. President Rodrigo Duterte declared martial law in the southern third of the nation and warned he would enforce it harshly.

The violence erupted Tuesday night after the army raided the hideout of Isnilon Hapilon, an Abu Sayyaf commander who is on Washington's list of most-wanted terrorists with a reward of up to \$5 million for his capture. The militants called for reinforcements from an allied group, the Maute, and some 50 gunmen managed to enter the city of Marawi.

"We are in a state of emergency," Duterte said after landing in Manila from a visit to Moscow, adding that skirmishes were continuing. "I have a serious problem in Mindanao and the ISIS footprints are everywhere."

He said he may declare martial law elsewhere in the Philippines if militants expand their attacks.

Archbishop Socrates Villegas, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, and Marawi Bishop Edwin de la Pena said the militants forced their way into the Marawi Cathedral and seized a priest, 10 worshippers and three church workers.

The priest, Father Chito, and the others had no role in the conflict, Villegas said.

"He was not a combatant. He was not bearing arms. He was a threat to none," Villegas said of Chito. "His capture and that of his companions violates every norm of civilized conflict."

Villegas says the gunmen are demanding the government recall its forces.

Duterte declared martial rule for 60 days in the entire Mindanao region, the restive southern third of the Philippine archipelago. He had vowed to be "harsh."

"I warned everybody not to force my hand into it," Duterte said on a plane en route to the Philippines

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on Wednesday. "I have to do it to preserve the republic."

Martial law allows Duterte to harness the armed forces to carry out arrests, searches and detentions more rapidly. He has repeatedly threatened to place the south, the scene of decades-long Muslim separatist uprisings, under martial law. But human rights groups have expressed fears that martial law powers could further embolden Duterte, whom they have accused of allowing extrajudicial killings of thousands of drug suspects in a crackdown on illegal drugs.

Details from inside Marawi were sketchy because the largely Muslim city of more than 200,000 people appeared to be largely sealed off and without electricity.

"The whole of Marawi city is blacked out, there is no light, and there are Maute snipers all around," Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said late Tuesday in Moscow, where he was accompanying Duterte on an official trip. Duterte cut the trip short and headed back to the Philippines.

Lorenzana said dozens of gunmen occupied city hall, a hospital and a jail and burned a Catholic church, a college and some houses in an assault that killed at least two soldiers and a police officer and wounded 12 others.

Hapilon, an Arabic-speaking Islamic preacher known for his expertise on commando assaults, pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group in 2014. He is a commander of the Abu Sayyaf militant group and was wounded by a military airstrike in January.

Troops sealed off major entry and exit points to prevent Hapilon from escaping, military chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Ano told The Associated Press by telephone late Tuesday from Moscow, where he was accompanying Duterte.

"We will conduct house-to-house clearing and do everything to remove the threat there. We can do that easily," Ano said, but added it was more difficult in an urban setting because of the need to avoid civilian casualties.

He said the group erected Islamic State flags at several locations.

Duterte met late Tuesday with Russian President Vladimir Putin and said he is counting on Russia to supply weapons for the Philippines to fight terrorism.

"Of course, our country needs modern weapons, we had orders in the United States, but now the situation there is not very smooth and in order to fight the Islamic State, with their units and factions, we need modern weapons," he said, according to Russian state news agency Tass.

While pursuing peace talks with two large Muslim rebel groups in the south of this predominantly Roman Catholic nation, Duterte has ordered the military to destroy smaller extremist groups which have tried to align with the Islamic State group.

The Maute group is one of less than a dozen new armed Muslim groups that have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State and formed a loose alliance with Hapilon reportedly designated as the alliance's leader.

The Maute has been blamed for a bombing that killed 15 people in southern Davao city, Duterte's hometown, last September and a number of attacks on government forces in Lanao, although it has faced setbacks from a series of military offensives.

Last month, troops backed by airstrikes killed dozens of Maute militants and captured their jungle camp near Lanao del Sur's Piagapo town. Troops found homemade bombs, grenades, combat uniforms and passports of suspected Indonesian militants in the camp, the military said.

Associated Press writer Jim Heintz in Moscow contributed to this report.

Cabinet members head to Capitol Hill to defend Trump budget

By ANDREW TAYLOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Top officials in President Donald Trump's Cabinet are heading to Capitol Hill to defend his plans to cut domestic programs and parry Democratic criticism of his tax proposals.

Budget Director Mick Mulvaney appears Wednesday before the House Budget panel while Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin will testify at the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee. The budget contains virtually no further detail on taxes beyond the cuts the administration proposed in a one-page

outline last month.

Trump on Tuesday released a 10-year budget plan containing jarring, politically unrealistic cuts to the social safety net and a broad swath of domestic programs.

The plan, Trump's first as president, combines \$4.1 trillion for the upcoming 2018 fiscal year with a promise to bring the budget back into balance in 10 years, relying on aggressive spending cuts, a surge in economic growth — and a \$2 trillion-plus accounting gimmick.

Trump's budget is simply a proposal. There's little appetite among Capitol Hill Republicans for a genuine effort to balance the budget; GOP lawmakers this year are instead pressing to rewrite the tax code and forge a spending deal with Democrats that would permit higher military spending.

Trump's budget holds true to his campaign pledge to leave Medicare and Social Security pension benefits alone and contains spending increases for the military and veterans, but it treats most of the rest of the government as fair game. It foresees an overhaul of the tax code, which analysts say could direct most of its benefits to upper-income earners.

Trump won support from GOP leaders.

"Here's what I'm happy about. We finally have a president who's willing to actually even balance the budget," said House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis. "At least we now have common objectives. Grow the economy, balance the budget."

Many rank-and-file Republicans recoiled from the cuts, however, which would squeeze foreign aid and domestic programs funded annually by Congress by about 10 percent next year and \$1.4 trillion over the coming decade.

Mulvaney, a former tea party congressman, is the driving force behind the Trump budget plan, winning the president's approval for big cuts to benefit programs whose budgets are essentially on autopilot.

Food stamp cuts would drive millions from the program, while a wave of Medicaid cuts — on top of more than \$800 billion in the House-passed health care bill — could deny nursing home care to millions of elderly poor people. It would also force some people on Social Security's disability program back into the workforce.

Other cuts in Trump's budget include \$63 billion in cuts to pension benefits for federal workers by eliminating cost-of-living adjustments for most workers and requiring employees to make higher contributions. In agriculture, the proposed budget would limit subsidies to farmers, including for purchasing crop insurance, a move already attacked by farm state lawmakers.

The budget does feature a handful of domestic initiatives, including a six-week paid parental leave program championed by Trump's daughter, Ivanka, that would be designed and financed by the states through cuts to unemployment insurance. Some \$200 billion in federal infrastructure investments are promised to leverage another \$800 billion in private investment, though the idea has yet to get much traction.

Trump's balanced-budget goal depends not only on the growth projections that most economists view as overly optimistic but also a variety of accounting gimmicks, including an almost \$600 billion peace dividend from winding down overseas military operations and "double counting" \$2.1 trillion in revenues from economic growth — using them to both pay for tax cuts and bring down the deficit.

Duterte declares martial rule in besieged south Philippines

By JIM GOMEZ and TERESA CEROJANO, Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte warned Wednesday that he'll be harsh in enforcing martial law in his country's south as he abruptly left Moscow to deal with a crisis at home sparked by a Muslim extremist siege on a city, where militants burned buildings overnight and are feared to have taken hostages.

Duterte declared martial rule for 60 days in the entire southern Mindanao region, the restive third of the Philippine archipelago, Tuesday evening to try to crush Muslim extremists who have aligned themselves with the Islamic State group and occupied a hospital, jail and other buildings and battled troops in an audacious attack in Marawi City.

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Martial law could be extended for a year depending on how long the problem could be quelled, Duterte said on board a plane en route to the Philippines.

"I said I would be harsh and I warned everybody not to force my hand into it," Duterte said. "I have to do it to preserve the republic."

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said troops raided the hideout of a top terrorist suspect in Marawi on Tuesday, sparking a gunbattle that prompted the militants to call for reinforcements from an allied group, the Maute. He said dozens of gunmen occupied city hall, a hospital and a jail and burned a Catholic church, a college and some houses in a bold attack that killed at least two soldiers and a police officer and wounded 12 others.

Several militants were killed in the fighting in Marawi city in Lanao del Sur province, about 830 kilometers (520 miles) south of Manila, but others continued to lay siege to the largely Muslim city of more than 200,000 people, officials said, adding that power was cut in the city in the chaos.

"The whole of Marawi city is blacked out, there is no light, and there are Maute snipers all around," Lorenzana said in the news conference in Moscow, which was broadcast live in the Philippines.

Foreign Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano said he informed his Russian counterpart, Sergey Lavrov, of Duterte's decision to fly home early to deal with the crisis. Cayetano said he would stay behind in Moscow, where a number of agreements are to be signed between the governments.

Duterte met late Tuesday with Russian President Vladimir Putin and said he is counting on Russia to supply weapons for the Philippines to fight terrorism.

"Of course, our country needs modern weapons, we had orders in the United States, but now the situation there is not very smooth and in order to fight the Islamic State, with their units and factions, we need modern weapons," he said, according to Russian state news agency Tass.

Duterte's martial law declaration will help government forces carry out searches and arrests and detain rebel suspects more quickly, Lorenzana said. He said offensives would also be staged in other southern provinces plagued by extremist groups. Despite the extremists' moves, Lorenzana said the government remains in control of the situation in Marawi city and other security trouble spots in the south.

Military chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Ano said the fighting started when troops attacked a hideout for Muslim extremist leader Isnilon Hapilon.

Hapilon reportedly has been chosen to lead an Islamic State group branch in Southeast Asia and is on the U.S. Department of Justice list of most-wanted terrorists worldwide, with a reward of up to \$5 million for his capture. An Arabic-speaking Islamic preacher known for his expertise in commando assaults, he pledged allegiance to the IS group in 2014, according to security officials.

Ano said Hapilon, who was wounded by a military airstrike in January, and more than a dozen of his men summoned reinforcements from their Maute allies. Nearly 50 gunmen in all managed to enter the city, Ano said.

About 20 of the gunmen took position in a hospital, where they raised a black Islamic State group-style flag at the gate, and 10 other militants were fighting troops and police near a provincial jail, he said.

Troops sealed off major entry and exit points to prevent Hapilon from escaping, Ano told The Associated Press by telephone from Moscow, where he was accompanying Duterte.

"They did some burnings, they showed up in another area so it looked chaotic, but it's actually a small group facing an overwhelming number of government forces," Ano said.

"We will conduct house-to-house clearing and do everything to remove the threat there. We can do that easily," Ano said, but added it was more difficult in an urban setting because of the need to avoid civilian casualties.

The Maute group is one of less than a dozen new armed Muslim groups that have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group and formed a loose alliance in the southern Philippines in recent years. Hapilon was reportedly designated the leader of the alliance.

The Maute has been blamed for a bomb attack that killed 15 people in southern Davao city, Duterte's hometown, last September and a number of attacks on government forces in Lanao, although it has faced

setbacks from a series of military offensives.

Last month, troops backed by airstrikes killed dozens of Maute militants and captured their jungle camp near Lanao del Sur's Piagapo town. Troops found homemade bombs, grenades, combat uniforms and passports of suspected Indonesian militants in the camp, the military said.

While pursuing peace talks with two large Muslim rebel groups in the south of the predominantly Roman Catholic nation, Duterte has ordered the military to destroy smaller extremist groups which have tried to align with the Islamic State group.

Duterte had repeatedly threatened to place the south, the scene of decades-long Muslim uprisings, under martial law if extremist violence spiraled out of control. Human rights groups have expressed fears that martial law powers could further embolden Duterte, whom they have accused of allowing extrajudicial killings of thousands of drug suspects in a crackdown on illegal drugs.

Associated Press writer Jim Heintz in Moscow contributed to this report.

Defense raises race bias in Cosby jury selection process

By **JOE MANDAK** and **MARYCLAIRE DALE**, Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — With just one black person seated among the first 11 jurors chosen for Bill Cosby's sexual assault trial, defense lawyers are crying foul and accusing prosecutors of trying to systematically keep blacks off the jury.

The lawyers return to court on Wednesday in Pittsburgh to pick a 12th juror and six alternates.

For now, Judge Steven O'Neill has rejected the race bias argument.

Prosecutors said race was not a factor in their decision to strike two black women from the panel this week. They said one was a former Pittsburgh police detective who sued the city after she was arrested in a public scandal.

O'Neill pledged to revisit the issue if defense lawyer Brian McMonagle, who had accused prosecutors of "a systematic exclusion of African-Americans," presented statistical evidence to back that up.

The 100 people summoned to the Allegheny County courthouse for juror consideration so far have included 16 people of color. A new jury pool will be summoned on Wednesday.

The jurors selected on Tuesday included a black woman who said she knew only "basic information" about the case, a young white man who initially expressed a tendency to believe police and two people who said they don't read or watch the news.

The jury now consists of seven men and four women — all but one of them white— in a case that Cosby has said may have racial undertones.

The actor-comedian once known as America's Dad for his beloved portrayal of Dr. Cliff Huxtable on "The Cosby Show" is charged with drugging and molesting a Temple University women's basketball team manager at his home near Philadelphia in 2004. He has called the encounter consensual.

Dozens of other women have made similar accusations against Cosby, 79, but O'Neill is allowing only one of them to testify at the June 5 trial in suburban Philadelphia. The jury from Pittsburgh will be sequestered nearly 300 miles from home.

Cosby, in an interview last week, said race could be a motivating factor in the accusations against him.

"Race plays a role in every trial, but it shouldn't eclipse ... the evidence," Loyola Law School professor Laurie Levenson said. "This case is frankly more about gender, celebrity, how women are treated (and) Bill Cosby's credibility. But race may take a more focused perspective because the defense has (raised it) recently."

The trial will take place in Norristown in Montgomery County, where Cosby had invited Andrea Constand to his home in 2004. Constand said she went seeking career advice. She said Cosby gave her wine and pills that put her in a stupor before molesting her on his couch.

Constand was 30 and dating a woman at the time, while Cosby was 66 and long married to wife Camille.

Cosby in sworn testimony has said he put his hand down Constand's pants, but said she did not protest.

Cosby has said he does not expect to testify.

The Associated Press does not typically identify people who say they are the victims of sexual assault unless they come forward, as Constand has done.

Cosby was arrested Dec. 30, 2015, days before the 12-year statute of limitations expired. He has pleaded not guilty and remains free on \$1 million bail.

Dale contributed from Philadelphia.

Hands off US election, ex-CIA director says he warned Russia

By EILEEN SULLIVAN and DEB RIECHMANN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former CIA Director John Brennan told Congress Tuesday he personally warned Russia last summer against interfering in the U.S. presidential election and was so concerned about Russian contacts with people involved in Donald Trump's campaign that he convened top counterintelligence officials to focus on them.

Meanwhile, a Senate committee issued two additional subpoenas to businesses of ousted Trump National Security Adviser Michael Flynn, one of several key figures in the Russia-Trump campaign probe, and sent a letter to his lawyer questioning his basis for claiming a Fifth Amendment right not to provide documents.

If there is no response from Flynn, the Senate Intelligence Committee may consider a contempt-of-Congress charge, said Chairman Richard Burr of North Carolina.

Tuesday's letter narrowed the scope of the documents the panel is seeking. Flynn had rejected the earlier subpoena for records as being so broad that providing them could make him vulnerable.

Former CIA chief Brennan's testimony to the House intelligence committee was the clearest public indication yet of the significance the Russia contacts play in counterintelligence investigations that continue to hang over the White House.

Brennan, who was President Barack Obama's CIA director, said he couldn't say whether there was collusion between Russia and the Trump campaign, an issue being investigated by congressional committees and now a federal special counsel.

"I don't have sufficient information to make a determination about whether or not such cooperation or complicity or collusion was taking place," Brennan said. "But I know there was a basis to have individuals pull those threads."

Brennan noted anew that U.S. intelligence agencies had concluded "Russia's goals were to undermine public faith in the U.S. democratic process, denigrate Secretary (Hillary) Clinton and harm her electability and potential presidency, and to help President Trump's election chances."

"It should be clear to everyone that Russia brazenly interfered in our 2016 present election process" and did so despite strong protests and his warning, he said.

Trump has predicted the investigations won't find collusion, and his efforts to cast doubt and curb the probes have led to the appointment of a special counsel at the Justice Department.

News reports that Trump asked his national intelligence director and National Security Agency chief to state publicly there was no evidence of collusion have heightened criticism.

Dan Coats, the current U.S. director of national intelligence, declined to comment Tuesday on a Washington Post report that said the president had asked him to publicly deny any collusion between Russia and Trump's campaign.

Coats told senators at a Senate hearing that it would be inappropriate to discuss private conversations he'd had with the president.

Nevertheless, Mark Warner of Virginia, the top Democrat on the Senate intelligence committee, said Coats and NSA director Mike Rogers should provide explanations.

A day earlier, Flynn had invoked his constitutional right not to incriminate himself in response to the Senate committee's request for details about interactions between him and the Russians. Trump associates

Paul Manafort and Roger Stone have provided the committee with information, while former campaign adviser Carter Page has not.

The Senate panel on Tuesday decided to issue two additional subpoenas to Flynn's businesses and sent the letter to his lawyer asking about the legal basis for his invoking his Fifth Amendment right over documents as opposed to testimony.

Burr said if there is no response from Flynn his committee may consider a contempt-of-Congress charge. "Everything is on the table," Burr said. Everything but immunity, he added.

Investigators also have questions about contacts between the Russians and Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner and Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

Brennan said he had seen intelligence that "revealed contacts and interactions" between Russian officials and Americans "involved" in the Trump campaign. He said this was cause for concern "because of known Russian efforts to suborn such individuals, and it raised questions in my mind, again, whether or not the Russians were able to gain the cooperation of those individuals."

In late July of last year there was so much concern that he convened a group of officials from the CIA, FBI and National Security Agency to focus on it exclusively.

He said he had personally told a senior Russian security official that continued meddling would backfire and prevent any warming of relations after the election. He said the Russian official denied such interference but also said he would relay the concern to President Vladimir Putin.

Trump, currently on a nine-day international trip, has had his own conversations with the Russians questioned in light of reports that he shared extremely classified intelligence with Russian diplomats in the Oval Office on May 10.

Brennan said that while he was CIA director he shared classified information with Russia and other nations about threats related to terrorism. But if reports about what Trump shared with the Russians are true, he said, it would be a violation of protocol. This type of information is typically shared in intelligence channels and not between the U.S. president and foreign diplomats, Brennan said.

Associated Press writers Eric Tucker, Stephen Braun, Chad Day and Jeff Horwitz contributed to this report.

Ariana Grande fans tremble as they recall Manchester attack

By MIKE CORDER, Associated Press

MANCHESTER, England (AP) — Rihanna Hardy had been excited about seeing Ariana Grande ever since she got her concert ticket as a Christmas gift. So when the day came, the 11-year-old left school a couple of hours early to make sure to get to Manchester Arena on time.

Her parents, Ryan and Shauna, took the afternoon off work, and the family drove the 140 miles (225 kilometers) from Newcastle to Manchester. They struggled to find the arena's multistory parking lot, and barely managed to buy Rihanna a black Ariana Grande tour sweatshirt before the concert started.

But what was supposed to be a special night for Rihanna and thousands of other young concertgoers turned into a tragedy when a suicide bomb blasted off just outside the cavernous hall. It killed 22 people, including an 8-year-old girl, and injured 59 — the deadliest attack in Britain in more than a decade.

"Poor Rihanna ... just kept asking every five or 10 seconds, 'Are we going to die?' Those were her exact words," her father said.

The family took their seats, close to the stage, just before the first of two supporting acts warmed up the crowd. The arena, which seats 21,000, was packed. Many clutched pink balloons and donned cat ears, like those the 23-year-old Grande is famous for wearing.

As the former star of the Nickelodeon series "Victorious" sang and danced her way through her set, the arena heated up. Young children and their parents glistened with sweat.

Then, as the concert ended, the horror began.

Just a few minutes after Grande finished her final song, "Dangerous Woman," blew a kiss to the audience and left the stage, the house lights came back on. People began filing toward the exits.

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It was then that a suspect identified as 22-year-old Salman Abedi set off his suicide bomb in the foyer, near a road linking the venue to the city's railway station. Witnesses described seeing bolts and other bits of metal at the scene of the blast.

The boom echoed through Manchester Arena, shaking the floor with a hollow thud. Thousands of Ariana Grande fans — many of them youngsters accompanied by their parents — fell silent for a few seconds, in shock. Then the screaming started.

"I thought we were going to die. It was just horrendous," said Rihanna's mother.

Panic descended on the hall.

"It was just sheer chaos," said Kirstyn Pollard, who had a seat close to the stage. "People were trying to get off the balconies. It was awful."

Melissa Andre and two friends clambered over a security barrier in their rush to get out. It was already dented from other concertgoers fleeing the arena, as officials tried frantically to restore order.

"A security official was on stage saying 'Be calm, everything's fine,'" said Andre, 20. "I think they were just saying that to calm people down before they got out. And then when we got out, the alarm went off."

Police were called in at 10:33 p.m. As they arrived, a smell hung in the air — a bit like smoke, a bit like burning, nothing the Hardys had ever smelled before.

"I can't describe it. It was a really awful smell," Shauna Hardy said. "And there was just alarms going off, police everywhere. Sirens everywhere. People running, screaming. It was just crazy. Absolutely crazy."

Ryan Hardy desperately tried to slow down his wife and daughter as they left the arena, worried they might fall in the crush of people fleeing the carnage. They emerged from the stifling heat of the concert hall into the cool night.

"Everyone else was running out the entrance while he was walking out the entrance," Rihanna — still wearing her Ariana Grande sweatshirt — said Tuesday, looking up proudly at her dad.

Police and paramedics rushed to aid the wounded, wrapping some in foil blankets to keep them warm and ward off shock. Others hobbled off into the night, their clothes torn and stained by blood.

Charlotte Fairclough, 14, was part of the rush to flee.

"Everyone was like scrambling over each other," she said. "Quite a few people got knocked over. It was like just a race to get out."

When Charlotte got out, she immediately called her mom, Stacy, who was waiting to pick up her daughter and a friend. The she called again to say she'd heard a big bang.

Her mother, at the time, wasn't too worried.

"I'd heard fireworks earlier in the night, so I wasn't too concerned to start with," she said.

The full scale of the attack did not hit home until they turned on the news at a hotel.

The Hardy family escaped unscathed, but the shock of the night endured even as they tried to sleep it off. When a door slammed loudly at half past five in the morning, Rihanna got frightened.

"There are a lot of people killed, a lot of people injured, a lot of people missing," Shauna Hardy said. "And we just feel so so lucky that we are all together."

Associated Press writer Rob Harris in Manchester contributed.

Areas outside of arenas becoming a bigger priority

By JOE REEDY, PAISLEY DODDS and KAREL JANICEK, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Even before the suicide bombing that killed 22 people at a Manchester, England, arena Monday night, the Chicago Cubs were evaluating ways to make the area around Wrigley Field safer.

The City Council Budget Committee on Tuesday approved a \$1 million donation by the World Series champions for the installation of 30 security cameras around the stadium in a densely populated neighborhood. The timing was coincidental — it was in the works for over a year — but the expensive undertaking underscores how difficult it is to keep large locales secure, especially after events.

Manchester police would not say if the bomber blew himself up inside or outside the arena, so it is not

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clear if rigorous bag screening or additional pre-event security would have helped prevent the deaths and injuries. The venue tweeted on Monday night that it happened "outside the venue in a public space."

"The risks now are higher outside of a stadium or venue than inside," Cubs spokesman Julian Green said. "Being able to check and monitor activity outside is becoming increasingly important."

The cameras will provide a 360-degree view outside the stadium, Green said. They will be installed around Wrigleyville and on a highway exit near the ballpark, but aren't likely to be ready until next season.

"We're being vigilant, not only for our fans but for the larger community that calls this place home," Green said.

After the 2005 suicide bombings that killed 52 people riding subways and a bus in London, Britain installed barriers around airports, transportation hubs and government buildings. However, bag checks are not routinely conducted on passengers boarding the country's trains and buses. Security at sporting events and museums remains scattershot, experts say.

The attack in Manchester illustrated the challenges in securing public spaces and potentially the limits of existing methods, although security protocols vary by country and venue. Most of the 130 people killed in the November 2015 attacks at multiple Paris locations were attending a show at the Bataclan concert hall.

"The level of screening is dependent on two things - the level of processes undertaken and the size of the venue. But nothing is consistent," Bob Ayers, a security expert who used to work for the CIA, said. "Think about (the) London Underground. If you try to do airport-style screening, people would never get anywhere on time. Nothing is ever 100 percent."

It was not immediately clear who was responsible for security at the arena on Monday. Telephone calls and emails were not immediately answered on Tuesday.

Bag checks and going through metal detectors have been standard procedure at stadiums and arenas in North America for at least the last seven years. Since 2012, fans attending National Football League games could only bring clear plastic bags into stadiums.

Major League Baseball mandated metal detectors at all ballparks in 2014. Spokesmen for MLB and the NFL said the leagues continue to improve and modify security plans as necessary in conjunction with law enforcement officials.

"I think our people have done a really good job doing everything they can to protect our fans and protect the players and everyone involved that's here in this building, you me, but you're always worried," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said before Tuesday's game against the Royals.

Security was at a heightened level before Game 4 of the Eastern Conference finals Tuesday night between the Celtics and Cavaliers at Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland, Ohio. Fans were having bags checked before entering a plaza near the arena where bands were performing and fans could watch the game without a ticket.

This was the first time that there have been large trucks blocking all access to the perimeter roads around the arena and outdoor area.

Survivors of the bombing said security screening ahead of the Ariana Grande show was haphazard, raising the question of whether public arenas and other crowded spaces are being safeguarded to the extent they could be.

"There was almost no security check," concert-goer Nikola Trochtova, who was leaving the Manchester Arena when she heard an explosion, told Czech public radio on Tuesday. "They let us get in without any check."

Another survivor of the Monday night attack, Ryan Molloy, said some people had their bags checked on the way into the concert, while others did not.

Grande's panicked fans stumbled to escape the arena after hearing loud noises and seeing people running toward the exits. The bombing took place at the end of the concert when security is much more relaxed as some audience members already were streaming toward the city's main train station. An 8-year-old girl was among the dead.

"Authorities could consider a perimeter farther away from the main space of the arena, but the practical matter then becomes where the screening should be done," Wendy Patrick, a California lawyer and threat

assessment expert, said. "But the focus of our attention is generally driven by the latest attack."

Sean Braisted, an official with the mayor's office in Nashville, Tennessee, said the city is still moving ahead with plans for outdoor events and watch parties near Bridgestone Arena during the Stanley Cup Finals. Residents gathered outside Bridgestone Arena during Monday's Western Conference finals game against Anaheim.

Large screens were set up outside but security was tight, with many officers restricting traffic around the arena and monitoring the crowd.

Ansley Bancroft, a resident of neighboring Franklin said she is often anxious.

"It's always been a fear of mine," Bancroft said. "I am terrified of, like, airports and stuff like that. Just because we are all born to believe that could happen anywhere anytime. ... But after hearing about (Manchester), it did make coming to such a large event a lot more nerve-wracking."

Reedy reported from Tallahassee, Florida, Janicek from Prague. Contributing to this story were Ronald Blum in New York, Jay Cohen in Chicago, Tom Withers and Brian Dulik in Cleveland, and Teresa Walker and Kristin Hall in Nashville.

Health care is key issue as Montana fills US House seat

By **BOBBY CAINA CALVAN, Associated Press**

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, Mont. (AP) — Meagher County, Montana, may not be much different than the rest of the rural enclaves across America that voted overwhelmingly for Donald Trump last fall.

The median annual household income is \$38,000 — about 25 percent below the national average. Nearly 20 percent of its 1,800 residents live in poverty. And more than one in four people don't have health insurance.

Yet few people in this conservative bastion ringed by prairies, meandering rivers and snow-frosted peaks are publicly complaining about Trump's push to repeal the Affordable Care Act — an issue that is front and center in a special election Thursday to fill Montana's only U.S. House seat.

"I think there are some aspects of it that are good, like keeping young people insured and coverage for pre-existing conditions, but some people expect other people to take care of them," said Barry Hedrick, who owns 2 Basset Brewery on Main Street and has no qualms about seeing the current law repealed.

"This was going to be a train wreck like every government program that's come along," he said.

Despite all their protest, one in eight Meagher County residents are newly enrolled in Medicaid — the government health care program that was expanded to cover the working poor in Montana and other states. In all, more than a third of Meagher County depends on state-administered public health insurance programs.

Much of the anti-government rhetoric — particularly against the Obama health care law — has clashed with the need for health care in towns such as White Sulphur Springs, home to half of Meagher County residents.

Rob Quist, the Democrat running for the state's congressional seat, has focused on how the high cost of health care conspires against Montanans. He supports single-payer health care, such as a Medicare-for-all program, but said the more realistic goal politically is to strengthen the current law.

For much of the campaign, Quist has been dogged by controversy over a financial tailspin that led to three state income tax liens, defaulting on a \$10,000 loan and legal clashes over money. He has blamed his debts on medical bills, but critics assert his troubles stemmed from financial irresponsibility.

Meanwhile, Republican Greg Gianforte — who has been more concerned about burnishing his pro-gun credentials — has suggested repealing and replacing the current health care law while keeping some of its provisions, a tricky position in a state that has 77,000 new enrollees for Medicaid.

In a teleconference with financial backers, he said he was thankful that Congress was beginning to take action, even though he hasn't fully explained how he would fix the current law.

The president's proposed budget released Tuesday would slash more than \$600 billion from Medicaid

over 10 years. That's on top of enrollment cuts aimed at saving billions more in the Republican plan that narrowly passed the U.S. House.

The Congressional Budget Office is expected to release its financial analysis of the bill on Wednesday.

Like most of her neighbors in White Sulphur Springs, Carol Berg voted for Trump in November. But unlike many, she doesn't mind saying the current health care law is a lifeline.

"We have all these pre-existing conditions and we'd never be able to afford insurance," said Berg, who works as a hairdresser and upholster from her home. "I'm 55 and my husband is 60, and we have to have insurance."

She said the subsidies they got from the law last year helped pay for the medical insurance that covered specialists and surgery after her husband was diagnosed with a rare condition affecting blood flow in his neck. In all, insurance covered about \$100,000 in medical bills, she said.

Now they worry that their benefits will be taken away.

"Maybe congressmen should be paid the average wage of their constituents and have to buy their own insurance out of that," Berg said. "Most of them have no clue what it's like to be the working poor."

In a protest vote, she and her husband cast absentee ballots for Libertarian Mark Wicks in the upcoming House race.

Others in town aren't keen about opening up about their hardships or the government benefits that flow into their community.

"A lot of people look at Medicaid as a handout," said Toni Taylor, a federal employee who has lived in the community for 38 years and knows of neighbors whose pride prevents them from signing up for government health care.

Rob Brandt, chief executive officer of Mountain View Medical Center in White Sulphur Springs, sees the health care law as a way for community hospitals across the state to survive. The bulk of his hospital's revenues come from patients on public health insurance.

Unemployment is about 4 percent in White Sulphur Springs, famous for its mineral spas about a 90-minute drive east of the capital city of Helena. Many folks work two jobs, some for minimum wage.

Adam Maleski, 30, who works in the kitchen of one of the town's taverns, said he makes too much to qualify for Medicaid but not enough to afford premiums for private insurance. He said he is trying to pay off steep medical bills amassed after his car rolled over nearly two years ago when he was uninsured.

"I would rather wait to get everything paid off before I buy insurance. I don't have health insurance, and I'm getting dinged on my taxes," he said.

Across the street, Chris Nielsen was waiting for customers to stroll into his barbershop. He said he doubts that Washington will find a solution anytime soon or that Quist or Gianforte will add much to the conversation.

"There's too much bickering in Washington, no matter who's in charge," Nielsen said.

Follow Bobby Caina Calvin on Twitter at @bobbycalvan

Experts: Traveler should have drawn scrutiny before flight

By MICHAEL BALSAMO, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A man acted strangely long before he caused a disturbance on a plane that prompted fighter jets to accompany it to Hawaii, but a lack of communication and an airline's hesitancy to be caught on video booting a passenger could have played a role in allowing him to fly, experts say.

Anil Uskanli, 25, of Turkey, had purchased a ticket at an airline counter in the middle of the night with no luggage and had been arrested after opening a door to a restricted airfield at Los Angeles International Airport. Airport police did not notify the airline, but they said it isn't common practice.

After bizarre behavior on board Friday, including trying to get to the front of the jet, he was arrested by FBI agents and charged with interfering with a flight crew.

A federal judge on Monday ordered him to undergo a mental competency evaluation, which Uskanli's

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attorney said he requested based on conversations with his client that he would not detail.

The first alarm should have been Uskanli buying his ticket around midnight with no bags other than a laptop, a phone and items in his pocket, said Doron Pely, a director at TAL Global, an international security consulting firm focusing on aviation security.

"Right there, that's enough red flags to really look into this guy with curiosity," Pely said. "He had trouble written all over him."

But Uskanli went through a security screening without raising suspicion and only drew the attention when he opened a door leading to an airfield ramp around 2:45 a.m.

Airport police said he smelled of alcohol but was not intoxicated enough to be charged with public drunkenness, so he was given a summons to appear in court and released.

Police said officers confiscated his boarding pass and walked him to a public area of the airport. He got another boarding pass and went through security again.

It isn't uncommon for people to open doors to restricted areas, airport police spokesman Rob Pedregon said, and Uskanli said he was looking for food when he was stopped by officers.

"Had it not been serious, it would have been comical," Pely said. "How many times do passengers go back to the check-in counter and say, 'Police confiscated my boarding pass. Can you please reissue a boarding pass for me?'"

Uskanli went to a different airport terminal, requested a wheelchair and was brought to the gate, American Airlines spokesman Ross Feinstein said. Flight attendants helped Uskanli at the door of the plane, authorities said.

Before takeoff, he sat in first-class and had to be asked several times to move to his economy seat, according to a criminal complaint.

"This is a situation where red flags were not accumulating properly because they were not transferred," Pely said. "If you see one red flag, you may let it go, but if you see three red flags and you let it go, you should be let go."

Airline employees may have been worried about preventing Uskanli from flying because of recent viral videos of flight crews ejecting passengers and may have been more tolerant of his behavior because they didn't know about his airport arrest, he said.

During the six-hour flight, Uskanli had his head swathed in a blanket and passengers said he pounded on walls after someone opened the restroom door he had left unlocked.

He tried to get to the front of the plane, and a flight attendant used a drink cart to block Uskanli. He placed his laptop on the cart, and flight attendants feared it might contain explosives.

That prompted the captain to initiate bomb-threat procedures, and fighter jets escorted the plane to Honolulu. The secretary of Homeland Security was briefed.

Police, TSA and the airline should have been communicating more efficiently, said Richard Bloom, a security expert at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

"The end result was an incredible cost. If you add up the delays and the jet scrambling, etc., a lot of money was expended on him, a lot of emotions, a lot of people felt uncomfortable," Pely said.

Uskanli's urine test revealed the presence benzodiazepine, a tranquilizer, and a field sobriety test indicated possible use of stimulants or cannabis, authorities said.

Jeffrey Price, an aviation security professor at Metropolitan State University of Denver, said the recent spate of online videos showing airlines mistreating customers may have played a role, making airline employees less likely to confront a passenger or eject Uskanli from the plane.

"There is probably some hesitancy, a little more tolerance even, of passenger behavior," he said. "Nobody wants to be the next YouTube star."

Associated Press writer Jennifer Sinco Kelleher in Honolulu and AP Airlines Writer David Koenig in Dallas contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to show that Pely's first name is Doron, not Doren.

NFL Hall of Famer Cortez Kennedy found dead at age 48

By TIM BOOTH, AP Sports Writer

Cortez Kennedy was a hulking force at defensive tackle, the cornerstone of a franchise that had little to cheer about for most of his playing career.

And yet what Kennedy accomplished as a player with the Seattle Seahawks — which was good enough for induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame — was secondary to the affable personality that made him a revered figure long after his career ended.

Police in Orlando, Florida, said the 48-year-old Kennedy was found dead Tuesday morning. Orlando Police Department public information officer Wanda Miglio said the circumstances surrounding his death are still unknown but that there is nothing suspicious about it. An investigation is being conducted.

"The full story lies in his loving, fun, positive and giving heart," said New Orleans Saints general manager Mickey Loomis, who worked for the Seahawks during Kennedy's playing career. "In my many years working in the NFL, no one better exemplified what it meant to be a great player on the field, and yet that paled in comparison to what Cortez meant to the people who knew him off the field."

A star who spent his entire 11-year NFL career in relative obscurity playing in Seattle, Kennedy became the second Seahawks player inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2012. He was an unmovable wall as a dominant defensive tackle, and a quiet, gentle soul away from the field never interested in finding himself in the spotlight.

"Cortez Kennedy has been a pillar of the Seahawks franchise since joining the team as a rookie in 1990," the Seahawks said in a statement. "Tez was the heart and soul of the Seahawks through the 1990s and endeared himself to 12s all across the Pacific Northwest as a player who played with a selfless and relentless approach to the game. ... We are proud to have been represented by such a special person."

Kennedy was the No. 3 overall pick in the 1990 draft out of Miami and Seattle smartly never let him leave. He brought notoriety to an otherwise dreadful period in Seahawks history as an eight-time Pro Bowler and was the NFL Defensive Player of the Year in 1992.

For many seasons of his career, Kennedy was the reason the Seahawks were relevant.

"Really sad to lose a guy like Cortez Kennedy," Broncos' general manager John Elway tweeted. Elway was chased around by Kennedy twice a year for much of the 1990s as competitors in the AFC West. "A great personality, a great player and I enjoyed competing against him."

Even though he last played for the Seahawks in 2000, he remained a significant part of the organization. He was a mainstay around the team during training camp and would occasionally roll through the locker room during the regular season grabbing a few minutes with anyone — players, coaches, media — up for a chat.

That personality was evident nearly 30 years ago when Dennis Erickson first met Kennedy at Miami. At the time, Erickson was taking over for Jimmy Johnson with the Hurricanes and inherited a player that was just coming into his own after transferring from Northwest Mississippi Community College. In Erickson's first year with the Hurricanes — and Kennedy's last — Miami won the national title and Kennedy was a second-team AP All-America selection.

Erickson saw that personality again in 1995 when he became the head coach of the Seahawks and Kennedy was his star player.

"He always had a smile on his face. There was no arrogance about him at all. Not at all," Erickson said. "He wouldn't think he was as good as he was. ... He was just a great young man. He was one of the closest guys I've been around in coaching. I was close with his family and he was close with my family and we kept in touch all these years. It's hard to describe him. They don't make them like him anymore."

After his playing career ended, Kennedy briefly worked for Loomis as an adviser with the Saints and was an ambassador for the Seahawks. He was scheduled to be in Seattle on Thursday as part of an event for the 2018 Special Olympics USA Games.

"Cortez will be remembered not only for all his great achievements on the football field but how he

handled himself off the field," Pro Football Hall of Fame President David Baker said. "He epitomized the many great values this game teaches which serves as inspiration to millions of fans."

Current Seattle players including Kam Chancellor, Earl Thomas and Jimmy Graham who came to know Kennedy from his locker room chats took to social media to express their shock and sadness at the loss of a mentor.

Kennedy experienced only minimal team success in his career with the Seahawks. His 1992 season, when Kennedy was the league's defensive player of the year, was made even more remarkable by the fact that his 14 sacks, 27 tackles for loss and 92 tackles came for a team that went 2-14 and was among the worst ever offensively in a 16-game season.

What made Kennedy so difficult to stop was his low center of gravity, unexpected quickness and remarkable strength packaged in a 6-foot-1, 300-pound frame.

"Out of the blue I would get a call from him and he'd laugh and that's how he was. Or he'd leave me a message, 'Am I still your favorite player?'" Erickson said. "He was like that all the time."

AP Pro Football Writer Barry Wilner and Associated Press Writer Terrence Harris contributed.

For more NFL coverage: <http://www.pro32.ap.org> and http://www.twitter.com/AP_NFL

Losing their kicks? Funds for Route 66 towns may be at risk

By RUSSELL CONTRERAS, Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Route 66, the historic American roadway that linked Chicago to the West Coast, soon may be dropped from a National Park Service preservation program, which would end years of efforts aimed at reviving old tourist spots in struggling towns.

A federal law authorizing the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program is set to expire in two years, and some lawmakers are working to save the program or get Congress to designate Route 66 as a National Historic Trail. That designation would set aside preservation funds annually.

The deadline, first reported by The Herald-News in Joliet, Illinois, also has Route 66 enthusiasts and preservation advocates scrambling to make sure the program or an alternative is maintained for the "Mother Road."

The program is credited with helping bring back to life forgotten landmarks along the route, many in disrepair because of sharply lower Route 66 traffic. Development of the interstate highway system after World War II diverted motorists away from Route 66 and economically hurt communities along the road.

A bipartisan bill in Congress to designate Route 66 as a National Historic Trail, sponsored by Rep. Darrin LaHood, an Illinois Republican, is supported by 12 other members of Congress from Illinois, Kansas, Oklahoma and California.

New Mexico has the longest stretch of Route 66 passing through urban communities, but state Tourism Secretary Rebecca Latham said she did not know whether the program would have an adverse impact on the state if it is not eventually refunded.

Preservationists fear that small towns along Route 66's 2,500-mile (4,020 kilometer) path will miss out in much-needed investment if the funding program is not extended or if the route does not get the historic trail designation, said Frank Butterfield, director of the nonprofit group Landmarks Illinois.

"Route 66 runs through a lot of very small towns where there is not a lot of economic development," Butterfield said. "It's been quite impactful so it would be a great loss to the town where Route 66 passes."

The uncertainty comes as the Trump administration is proposing deep cuts to domestic spending and various agencies.

Established in 2001 by Congress, the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program began as an effort to save aging landmarks and dilapidated structures.

The program has given out \$2 million for nearly 150 projects and has generated another \$3.3 million in matching funds, said Kaisa Barthuli, program manager for the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program in

Santa Fe, New Mexico.

The program has helped fund projects like the El Vado Motel neon sign restoration in Albuquerque, New Mexico and the Baxter Springs Independent Oil and Gas Station restoration in Baxter Springs, Kansas.

Other grants are being used to repair the roof of the Historic Navajo County Courthouse in Holbrook, Arizona and restore a free-standing neon sign of the Donut Drive-In in St. Louis, Missouri.

Some places that have received preservation funding are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Tourism and local officials believe the grants help revitalize forgotten structure and spur tourism, especially by international visitors who flock to Route 66.

Decommissioned as a U.S. highway in 1985, Route 66 went through eight states, connecting tourists with friendly diners in welcoming small towns.

It was once an economic driver for small towns from Illinois to California. Nat King Cole famously sang "(Get Your Kicks on) Route 66" in a 1946 hit that has been remade by countless other groups.

Use of Route 66 dropped significantly after highways were built as part of the interstate system, forcing businesses to close and leaving others in disrepair.

Barthuli said the program has funded 20 projects in New Mexico and given out \$340,000 in grants, including \$8,000 to help fix up the windows and neon sign of the historic Blue Swallow Motel in Tucumcari, New Mexico. That grant helped attract an additional \$27,000 for restoration.

Follow Russell Contreras on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/russcontreras> .

Warning of "imminent" attack, Britain raises threat level

By JILL LAWLESS, ROB HARRIS and SYLVIA HUI, Associated Press

MANCHESTER, England (AP) — As officials hunted for accomplices of a suicide bomber and Britain's prime minister warned another attack could be "imminent," thousands of people poured into the streets of Manchester in a defiant vigil Tuesday for victims of a blast at a pop concert — the latest apparent target of Islamic extremists seeking to rattle life in the West.

The attack left at least 22 dead, including an 8-year-old girl, shattering the revelry at a show by American singer Ariana Grande, where strains of electric pop and the sways of innocent young fans quickly gave way to an explosion, a flood of screams and a stampede of panicked concert-goers, many clutching pink balloons and wearing the kitten-ear headbands popularized by Grande.

Touching on that disconnect, British Prime Minister Theresa May said: "We struggle to comprehend the warped and twisted mind that sees a room packed with young children not as a scene to cherish but as an opportunity for carnage."

May said Britain's terror threat level had been raised to critical — meaning another attack may be imminent. The status means armed soldiers could be deployed instead of police at public events including sports matches. The threat level had been at the second-highest rung of "severe" for several years.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the blood bath Monday, though a top American intelligence official said the assertion could not be verified. Manchester Police Chief Ian Hopkins identified the bomber as 22-year-old Salman Abedi, who authorities said died in the attack. Police raided two sites in the northern English city, setting off a controlled explosion in one, and arresting a 23-year-old man in a third location.

May said Abedi was born and raised in Britain and a European security official said he was of Libyan descent. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to comment on ongoing investigations.

At least 20 heavily armed, helmeted police surrounded a modest red brick house listed as Abedi's address in a mixed Manchester suburb at midday on Tuesday and blasted down the door.

"It was so quick. These cars just pulled up and all these police with guns, dogs, jumped out of the car and said to us: 'Get in the house now,'" said Simon Turner, 46, who lives nearby. Later, forensic officers in white coveralls were seen going in and out of the property.

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Details on Abedi were slow to trickle out. He was described by neighbors as a tall, thin young man who often wore traditional Islamic dress, but few said they knew him well.

Alan Kinsey, 52, who lives across the street, said his neighbor would often get picked up by another young man in a Toyota and often returned late at night. "I thought he worked in a takeaway or something" because of his late hours, Kinsey said.

Police also searched an apartment in a nearby area that British media reported belonged to Abedi's brother, Ismail.

Late Tuesday, thousands of people, some holding up signs proclaiming "I Love MCR" — an abbreviation for Manchester — held a moment of silence at a vigil for the victims. Lord Mayor Eddy Newman and the city's police chief were among the speakers in front of City Hall in Albert Square, where a banner with a website for a Muslim group said "Love for all, Hatred for None."

May called raising the country's terror threat level and deploying soldiers to patrol key sites a "proportionate and sensible response" to the suicide bombing. There are two major sports events in London on Saturday, with Wembley Stadium hosting soccer's FA Cup final, which Prince William is due to attend, and Twickenham hosting rugby's Premiership final.

Monday's bombing made Manchester Arena, one of the largest indoor concert venues in Europe, the latest apparent target of Islamic extremists striking at the heart of Western culture, an ideology baffling to the panicked young faces emerging from the concert.

Among those confirmed killed was Georgina Callander, whose death was reported by her former school, which posted a photo of her in her school uniform on its website and described her as a "lovely" and "very popular" young woman. Also killed was 8-year-old Saffie Roussos, who a teacher called "simply a beautiful little girl in every aspect of the word" who was warm, kind, "and unassuming, with a creative flair."

The little girl's mother and sister were among the 59 wounded, which included at least 12 children under the age of 16.

Grande, who was not injured in the blast, tweeted: "broken. from the bottom of my heart, i am so sorry. i don't have words."

The bombing took place after Grande closed the show with "Dangerous Woman" and left the stage and the audience streamed toward the city's main train station. It scattered bolts and other metal scraps, apparently intended to maximize the bloodshed. People tumbled over guardrails and one another clawing toward an escape.

"There was this massive bang. And then everyone just went really quiet. And that's when the screaming started," said 25-year-old Ryan Molloy. "As we came outside to Victoria Station, there were just people all over the floor covered in blood."

The attack sparked a nightlong search for loved-ones — parents for the children they had accompanied or had been waiting to pick up, and friends for each other after groups were scattered by the blast. Twitter and Facebook lit up with heartbreaking appeals for the missing.

"I've called the hospitals. I've called all the places, the hotels where people said that children have been taken and I've called the police," Charlotte Campbell tearfully told ITV television's Good Morning Britain breakfast show. Campbell's 15-year-old daughter, Olivia, had attended the show with a friend who was wounded and being treated in a hospital.

"She's not turned up," Campbell said of her daughter. "We can't get through to her."

Hayley Lunt, who brought her 10-year-old daughter Abigail to the show, her very first concert, said they ran as fast as they could once the explosions rang out. "What should have been a superb evening," Lunt said, "is now just horrible."

Some concert-goers said security had been haphazard before the show, with some people being searched and others not. However, authorities would not say whether the bomber blew himself up inside or outside the arena, so it wasn't clear if rigorous bag screening or additional security would have helped prevent the deaths and injuries. The venue tweeted on Monday night that it happened "outside the venue in a public space."

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Around the United Kingdom and across Europe, the attack brought fear and mourning.

At Buckingham Palace, Queen Elizabeth II marked a moment of silence alongside her husband Prince Philip as well as Prince Charles and his wife Camilla. In Rome, the lights of the Colosseum and Trevi Fountain were darkened.

U.S. President Donald Trump, on a visit to the West Bank city of Bethlehem, called the perpetrators "evil losers" and said "this wicked ideology must be obliterated."

Manchester, 160 miles (260 kilometers) northwest of London, is one of Britain's largest cities. The attack was the deadliest in Britain since four suicide bombers killed 52 London commuters on subway trains and a bus in 2005.

Islamic State's claim of responsibility echoed others the group has made for attacks in the West but with vague details that left open the possibility it was an opportunistic attempt at propaganda. Manchester itself has seen terror before, but not this deadly. The city was hit by a huge Irish Republican Army bomb in 1996 that leveled a swath of the city center. More than 200 people were injured, although no one was killed.

The bombing also elicited painful memories of the 2015 terror attacks in Paris, where most of the 130 killed were at the Bataclan concert hall.

Hui reported from London. Contributing to this report were Gregory Katz, Brian Rohan, Paisley Dodds, Lisa Leff and Sophie Berman in London; John Leicester and Lori Hinnant in Paris; Eric Tucker in Washington; and Matt Sedensky in New York.

Mom who went to classes with quadriplegic son gets MBA

ORANGE, Calif. (AP) — A Southern California university has awarded an honorary degree to the mother of a quadriplegic student after she attended every class with him and took his notes while he pursued his Master of Business Administration.

Judy O'Connor, a retired elementary-school teacher, pushed her son Marty in his wheelchair for him to receive his degree during commencement Saturday at Chapman University in the Los Angeles suburb of Orange.

Then, a choked-up graduation announcer said the school's faculty, administrators and board of trustees had decided to give her an MBA. The idea for the surprise honorary degree came from her son.

A stunned but composed Judy O'Connor blew a kiss to the crowd giving her a standing ovation.

"I'm a geek. I love being in school," she said before the ceremony. "I'm not going to lie. I've enjoyed every minute of it."

Marty O'Connor received an undergraduate degree from the University of Colorado and was working as a salesman for a packaging industry company in 2012 when he fell down a flight of stairs and was paralyzed.

"After I got hurt, I didn't know which end was up. I didn't really have a direction," he said in a story on the school's website. "I needed that mental challenge and wanted to add some professional value to myself."

His mother was living in Florida but moved to Southern California to help her son earn his MBA.

He uses an iPad, laptop, voice-recognition software and a special mouth stylus to communicate but could not take notes or write the answers to tests. So his mother did.

China stocks fall after rating cut, other Asian markets gain

By JOE McDONALD, AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese stocks sank Wednesday after Moody's cut the country's debt rating and other Asian markets rose following Wall Street's advance.

KEEPING SCORE: The Shanghai Composite Index lost 0.5 percent to 3,047.80 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng was unchanged at 25,410.81. Tokyo's Nikkei 225 index gained 0.5 percent to 19,707.87 and Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 added 0.2 percent to 5,774.40. Seoul's Kospi added 0.2 percent to 2,317.26 and benchmarks in Taiwan, New Zealand and Singapore gained. Jakarta declined.

CHINESE DEBT: Moody's Investors Service downgraded China's long-term local currency and foreign

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currency debt ratings, citing the country's rising debt. Moody's cut the rating to a still relatively robust A1 from Aa3 and changed its outlook to stable from negative. The change reflects an expectation "China's financial strength will erode somewhat" and economy-wide debt will rise, Moody's said. It said that while planned reforms will transform the economy and financial system, those will not prevent an increase in debt and potential government liabilities.

ANALYST'S TAKE: The China downgrade could "deal a blow to confidence in regional markets," said Jingyi Pan of IG in a report. "While the downgrade itself had not been regarded as a plunging drop in rating, the attention on China's worsening outlook could create jitters."

WALL STREET: U.S. stocks rose for a fourth day, with most gains going to banks. Scientific instrument companies and drug makers also rose. Auto parts companies were hammered after poor third-quarter results from AutoZone and home builders fell after sales of new homes sank in April. The Standard & Poor's 500 index added 0.2 percent to 2,398.42. The Dow Jones industrial average edged up 0.2 percent to 20,937.91. The Nasdaq composite rose 0.1 percent to 6,138.71.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude rose 13 cents to \$51.60 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract gained 34 cents on Tuesday to \$51.47. Brent crude, used to price international oils, advanced 16 cents to \$54.31 in London. It added 28 cents the previous session.

CURRENCY: The dollar gained to 111.90 yen from Tuesday's 111.77 yen. The euro edged down to \$1.1181 from \$1.1183.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, May 24, the 144th day of 2017. There are 221 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 24, 1775, John Hancock was unanimously elected President of the Continental Congress in Philadelphia, succeeding Peyton Randolph.

On this date:

In 1844, Samuel F.B. Morse transmitted the message "What hath God wrought" from Washington to Baltimore as he formally opened America's first telegraph line.

In 1883, the Brooklyn Bridge, linking Brooklyn and Manhattan, was dedicated by President Chester Alan Arthur and New York Gov. Grover Cleveland.

In 1935, the first major league baseball game to be played at night took place at Cincinnati's Crosley Field as the Reds beat the Philadelphia Phillies, 2-1.

In 1937, in a set of rulings, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the Social Security Act of 1935.

In 1941, the German battleship Bismarck sank the British battle cruiser HMS Hood in the North Atlantic, killing all but three of the 1,418 men on board.

In 1957, anti-American rioting broke out in Taipei, Taiwan, over the acquittal of a U.S. Army sergeant who had shot and killed a Chinese man.

In 1962, astronaut Scott Carpenter became the second American to orbit the Earth as he flew aboard Aurora 7.

In 1976, Britain and France opened trans-Atlantic Concorde supersonic transport service to Washington.

In 1977, in a surprise move, the Kremlin ousted Soviet President Nikolai Podgorny from the Communist Party's ruling Politburo.

In 1980, Iran rejected a call by the World Court in The Hague to release the American hostages.

In 1994, four Islamic fundamentalists convicted of bombing New York's World Trade Center in 1993 were each sentenced to 240 years in prison.

In 2001, 23 people were killed when the floor of a Jerusalem wedding hall collapsed beneath dancing guests, sending them plunging several stories into the basement.

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Ten years ago: Bowing to President George W. Bush, Congress passed an emergency war spending bill that did not include a provision ordering troops home from Iraq beginning in the fall of 2007. Ohio death row inmate Christopher Newton was executed by injection; it took him 16 minutes to die, more than twice the usual amount of time, once chemicals began flowing into his veins, which the execution team had trouble locating.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama doubled down on criticism of rival Mitt Romney's background as a venture capitalist, telling a rally at the Iowa State Fairgrounds there might be value in such experience but "not in the White House." Brian Banks, a former high school football star whose dreams of a pro career were shattered by what turned out to be a false rape accusation, burst into tears as a judge in Long Beach, California, threw out the charge that had sent Banks to prison for more than five years.

One year ago: Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton and presumptive Republican nominee Donald Trump each won primaries in Washington state. Protests outside a Donald Trump rally in Albuquerque, New Mexico, turned violent as demonstrators threw burning T-shirts, plastic bottles and other items at police officers, overturned trash cans and knocked down barricades.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-comedian-impressionist Stanley Baxter is 91. Jazz musician Archie Shepp is 80. Comedian Tommy Chong is 79. Singer Bob Dylan is 76. Actor Gary Burghoff is 74. Singer Patti LaBelle is 73. Actress Priscilla Presley is 72. Country singer Mike Reid is 70. Actor Jim Broadbent is 68. Actor Alfred Molina is 64. Singer Rosanne Cash is 62. Actor Cliff Parisi is 57. Actress Kristin Scott Thomas is 57. Rock musician Jimmy Ashhurst (Buckcherry) is 54. Rock musician Vivian Trimble is 54. Actor John C. Reilly is 52. Actor Dana Ashbrook is 50. Actor Eric Close is 50. Actor Carl Payne is 48. Rock musician Rich Robinson is 48. Actor Dash Mihok is 43. Actor Bryan Greenburg is 39. Actor Owen Benjamin is 37. Actor Billy L. Sullivan is 37. Actor-rapper Jerod Mixon (aka Big Tyme) is 36. Rock musician Cody Hanson (Hinder) is 35. Dancer-choreographer-singer Mark Ballas is 31. Country singer Billy Gilman is 29. Rapper/producer G-Eazy is 28. Actress Brianne Howey (TV: "The Exorcist") is 28. Actor Cayden Boyd is 23.

Thought for Today: "It is the weakness and danger of republics, that the vices as well as virtues of the people are represented in their legislation." — Helen Maria Hunt Jackson, American author (1830-1885).